

The Baptist Record

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Siberia: Land of Plenty experiences God's blessings

By Stanley Crabb

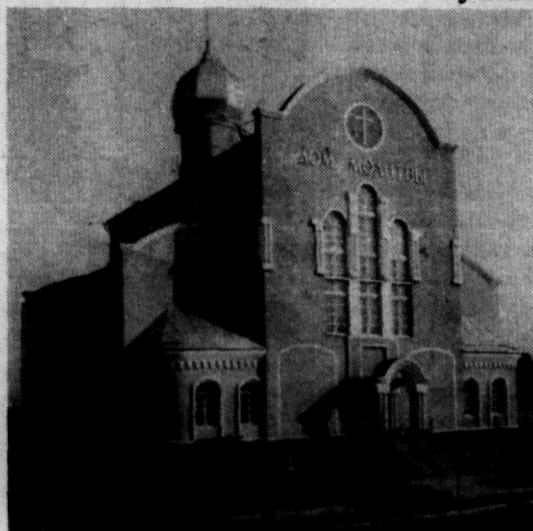
ABAKAN, SIBERIA (Russia) (EBPS) — Siberia — that immense territory east of the Ural Mountains. Peter the Great removed its status as a colony which had begun in the 17th century. Siberia spans nine time zones, reaching all the way to Alaska. The area is nearly twice the size of the continental United States. It is rich in forests, wild life, and minerals (gold, iron, petroleum, among others). It has one of the world's longest river systems (Yenisei-Angara), and the world's oldest, deepest, and largest fresh water lake. Baikal Lake is 1.6 kilometers deep, 630 km. long, and holds 22% of the world's supply of fresh water.

Four representatives of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) recently visited the regions of Abakan, Krasnoyarsk, and Irkutsk. They were the EBF general secretary and his wife, Karl Heinz and Traute Walter; the writer, and his wife Patricia.

We travelled to Siberia at the invitation of Vitaly Logvinenko, president of the Russian Baptist Union (RBU). Vladimir Ryaguzov, 42, accompanied us as a guide and translator. A committed Christian and able preacher, Vladimir was chief architect for a state company until last year when he left this high position to direct the RBU's growing Bible Institutes.

"Show them everything," Logvinenko had evidently told Vladimir, and he tried to show us all of it. Together with the Russian Baptist regional superintendents — "bishops," as they are called in Russia — we preached in as many as four services a day in as many Baptist churches. Vladimir and the bishops also helped us understand the life of the Siberians. We felt we had truly been a part of this vast land.

It is true, we learned, that Siberian winters are severe. Temperatures down to -70° C (-97° F) have been recorded. Siberia's legendary cold has made it an ideal location for prisons. So has its remoteness. The large area we visited is some 3,000 km. from Moscow



The 600-plus members of the Krasnoyarsk Baptist Church (Siberia, Russia) have almost completed their new church building. The dedication is anticipated sometime this fall. Due to stringent restrictions by local architects, whose only contact with a Christian church was no doubt an Orthodox church, its use as a Baptist facility will be forever handicapped. For example, the architects would only permit the baptistry — a significant focal point in Baptist worship — to be installed in the basement, rather than in the worship hall. Religious harassment of architectural ignorance? Total cost of the three-year project amounts to far more than the congregation had originally anticipated, and the project has required more than three years, much more than they had wanted.

and 3,000 km. from Vladivostock in the "far east."

The first political exiles were sent to Siberia in 1593. After the 1660s religious dissenters and criminals of all types were exiled there, and during the 19th century nearly one million persons lived out their life-long prison sentences in this awesome territory.

In this century, more than 300,000 believers of all religions were killed under Stalin's dreadful religious oppression. Many of these people knew the cruelty of a prison sentence in Siberia before they were ultimately killed.

In Minusinsk, a city near Abakan, we heard a heart-rending story. Within a few months in 1938, almost all the members of the Baptist church — more than 350 — were killed.

Many of the believers were tortured in the Minusinsk prisons before being led to the surrounding forests to be shot.

Katherina Nischnik, 82, told us her story with tear-filled eyes, as if it had happened yesterday. As a young bride of 27 she had watched, terrified, as her husband and three brothers were put in prison for no other reason than that they were believers. They were later executed in the forest. "I think my husband is still here with me," said the old woman, clasping her hands over her heart. Today's generation of Baptist believers now carries the gospel to the prisoners of that same prison.

Because of the bad reputation Siberia has gained as a place of exile and as a land of extreme cold, many people are unaware that Siberia is also a land which God has highly endowed with natural beauty and riches of every kind. The silence of Siberia's pristine forests of birch is breath-taking. Summers there can be warm and beautiful. The mercury can remain as high as 30-35° C (100° F) for weeks at a time. We had been told to dress warmly for Siberia. Much to our surprise, we experienced very warm weather day after day.

Baikal Lake, which in winter is used as a highway for trucks travelling safely over 4-6

feet of ice, in July and August becomes a favorite tourist area with swimming, boating, and fishing. Due to the yearly temperature changes of the water, Baikal Lake is unique among large lakes in that it sustains life all the way to its bottom, one mile deep. Since the transformation of the former SU, it is likely the area will increasingly become a mecca for tour groups from around the world. The lake is currently the location of scientific expeditions as scientists study the effects of modern pollution on this otherwise pristine body of water.

From the air, one is aware of the innumerable lakes and extensive forests which cover Siberia's heartland. On the ground, the absence of fences makes one aware of the almost limitless grazing possibilities for farm animals.

The Siberian people are friendly and give the impression of being somehow more relaxed than their fellow countrymen back

west in Moscow.

"Moscow is a long way away," one of them said to us as we discussed the openness of Gorbachev's *perestroika*. "Perestroika has not reached here, yet."

In effect, it has. Baptists seem to have almost unlimited freedoms. Their churches are full, the services warm, and evangelism is invigorating the life of the Baptist associations. In the Irkutsk Baptist Association, for instance, the number of churches has more than doubled, from 14 to 30, as has the membership, from 600 to 1,100. Sixteen missionaries are working in nine locations to plant new churches.

One of the most gratifying signs of life is the bright-eyed, smiling faces of the youths in the churches. Young people, especially those in their late teens and early 20s, are turning to Christ. In one church we asked what had been the greatest changes they had seen since the fall of communism. "The fact that we can become Christians openly," said a lovely young lady. Others seconded her answer. When we asked how long they had been believers, more than half of the 50-60 youths responded from one month to two years.

Siberia, a waste land? Not on your life. It is a land "flowing with milk and honey" wait-



Prison walls in Minusinsk, a town near Abakan (Siberia), Russia. The Baptist Church in Minusinsk ministers to prisoners behind these walls. Some of the prisoners never see the light of day (note the metal window covers). In 1938 Baptist forebears were imprisoned in the same prison by the cruel Joseph Stalin for no other reason than that they were Christian believers. After a brief stay in the prison, where they were tortured severely, they were led into the forest nearby where soldiers shot them. In three months more than 300 believers — nearly the entire congregation of 350 members — were killed. The associational superintendent of Abakan and Krasnoyarsk, Ivan Vasili Besrukich, indicates the infamous place to Vladimir Ryaguzov, director of the Russian Baptist Bible Institute, while Ivan's wife looks on. (EBPS photos by Stanley Crabb)

ing to be discovered by the rest of the world.

Surely God has an exciting future for the Christian gospel in this wonderful land. The ancestors of many of the believers who inhabit the land today came as religious exiles. They would be proud of their progeny.

Crabb is director, European Baptist Press Service.



On a Sunday morning in May, the Abakan Baptist Church in central Siberia gathers to worship. Abakan is an 80-year-old city of 170,000 people. The church was founded there in 1894 when three prisoners were exiled to prison in a nearby town. Today, the church has an active program of evangelism and a membership of 340, including many men and children, unusual in a former Soviet republic.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Be a winner

"Join the winning team" is an admonition on a Jackson billboard for a gambling casino in our state. The proliferation of gaming houses has been swift and alarming. The Gulf Coast now has six casinos operating 24 hours a day. Grand Casino in Gulfport has three floors of gambling on four barges totaling 198,000 square feet. There are 1,500 employees.

Presently there are 10,139 people employed to keep the casino train on track in Mississippi. Child care facilities are available including an area for bed babies and toddlers. There are 14 gambling license applications before the State Gaming Commission. Gambling casinos could well be the largest employer in our state in a few years.

Add to this the river boat gambling as the Natchez and the Robert E. Lee stoke the furnace for a new race. Natchez, Vicksburg, and Tunica are vying for gaming aficionados. Meanwhile, the Choctaw Indians are restless as they await their casino on the reservation near Philadelphia. Soon all the people will be within easy driving distance of the spinning wheels.

Sounds great doesn't it? Thousands of people have employment. The state is reaping a handsome benefit in new taxes. The lights are bright as the Las Vegas of the South adds new chapters to Magnolias and moonlight. Rhet and Scarlet would be delighted. Be a winner, open a new era in the agricultural kingdom. Don't knock it; we will ride this new gaming mustang to a new pasture where the grass is green and even greener. Higher pay for school teachers, better highways, more industry, and pie in the sky for everyone.

Slowly a cloud creeps into view. Each slot machine in Atlantic City cost \$5,000 and produces \$100,000 a year. Harold Hendrick, in the St. Louis Post Dispatch (March 8, 1990), reports that casinos began in Atlantic City in 1979 and by 1986, three of Atlantic City's previous six mayors had been sentenced to jail for political corruption. Somehow a warm relationship seems to develop between public officials and the rollers and shakers. A New Jersey study claims that 5% of the people are considered compulsive

gamblers, and is alarmed over a 100% increase in teenaged gamblers in the last 15 years.

Casinos also render a huge payoff in crime and corruption. The National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling in Nashville says, "Nevada has consistently ranked first in the nation in per capita crime, divorce, and abortion rates... plus a higher-than-average rate of prostitution and drug abuse." The something-for-nothing mentality is crippling indeed.

Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave but soon he was a prince. Famine was heavy in nearby lands but due to Joseph and his God, there was grain in Egypt. Joseph sent for his family. They were given choice land in Goshen, everyone was employed, the sun was shining and prosperity smiled upon them.

Then things began to change. Soon they were enslaved and made brick and mortar. Their children grew up as slaves. That which they loved so much at first was now their master. The sun went down in a hurry. It would be 400 years ere it would rise again.

SBC afterglow

"Missions was the big winner in Houston.... Missionary Jerry Rankin was elected new Foreign Mission Board president. His election will give much-needed assurance to SBC missionaries that the FMB has not abandoned them." — J.B. Fowler, Baptist New Mexican.

"The 1993 SBC had the look of a remodeled annual meeting. There was at least some openness to speakers beyond the rather exclusive, tightly held group of fundamental/conservative convention speakers. Frank Pollard, a key pastor who has steadfastly refused to align himself with either side of the SBC controversy, preached on Thursday morning." — Lynn P. Clayton, Baptist Message (Louisiana).

"The Convention exercised restraint in saying little to Woman's Missionary Union about its service outreach. And it chose to ignore the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. This was wise. Southern Baptists have a plateful of problems without asking for more. Southern Seminary is in turmoil surrounding its change of administration, the Sunday School Board is in a sales slump, and the new Cooperative Program budget is \$1.9 million smaller than the last." — John E. Roberts, Baptist Courier (South Carolina).

"In spite of some dramatic changes (in the SBC), there are many things that remain the same. Southern Baptists still have a broad diversity of beliefs and opinions. We are not monolithic in any sense... still fiercely independent and individualistic. We still resist officialdom from the top. Most... are much more interested in missions, evangelism... than with theological debate." — Hudson Baggett, The Alabama Baptist.

"The SBC Houston... will go down as a message-sending meeting... the lowest registration since 1984.

Why? Apparently years of controversy... have caused many Southern Baptists not to invest their time nor money to attend. The message sending... the election of Jerry Rankin to head the Foreign Mission Board. The Elder-Hobbs meeting revealed a tension between the state Baptist conventions and the SBC which cannot be ignored. Both the national and state conventions need to be inclusive of each other." — Presnall H. Wood, The Baptist Standard (Texas).

"I have never been a big advocate of peace or harmony that is only skin deep. Where we have basic differences, let's not pretend they aren't important to us. This (Rankin) seems to be a leader we can rally behind, he has a good biblical foundation, he is willing to think new thoughts, and he has a positive hope for our common ministry. Moderate Baptists need to join with us in supporting the work of the Foreign Mission Board until there is a substantive reason why they cannot do so. Those who were troubled by Rankin's theology should wait until he makes a mistake before criticizing or withholding support. Our world missions enterprise is growing stronger and there is reason to hope that we will be used mightily of God in coming years. You need to be a part of that future." — Gary Ledbetter, Indiana Baptist.

"This was not a perfect convention. But for longtime participants and observers, it was a welcome relief to what we have experienced at times in recent years. There still is not parity in the appointment process, but even that shows positive steps. Trust, someone said, is a two-way street. Before trust is shown for others, one must be trusted. It is not a case of 'I dare you' or 'You go first.' The right thing to do is trust brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter where the line is drawn." — Fletcher Allen, Baptist and Reflector (Tennessee).



THE FRAGMENTS

Rachel weeps for her children...

While men debate, the abortion mills continue to exist. We may not agree with methods some use to combat abortion, but they may not agree with our methods. This difference must always be a matter of individual conscience and must be respected. Meanwhile, consider the facts.

In the United States:

*1.7 million abortions each year (reported).

*4,657 each day

*194 each hour

*3.2 each minute

*40% of all pregnancies in the U.S. end in abortion.

*Abortion is the leading cause of death in the U.S.

*923,472 Americans die of circulatory disease each year.

*509,649 die of cancer each year.

*148,532 die of accidents, poisonings, violence.

The United States ranks third in the world in abortions performed, behind China and the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union).

*30 million babies have been aborted in the U.S. since the *Roe vs. Wade* decision (20 years).

*Each year more babies are aborted than the total deaths (civilian and military) of every war and conflict in the history of our nation.

*We abort more children in two weeks than total lives lost in Vietnam.

*Every month more babies die at the hands of abortion than the entire loss of life of both atomic bombs dropped on Japan in World War II.

*"If he is not alive,
why is he growing?"*

*If he is not a human being,
what kind of being is he?*

*If he is not a child,
why is he sucking his thumb?*

*If he is a living, human child,
why is it legal to kill him?"*

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FMB reinstates Warrington, but not to previous position

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Jerry Rankin, new president of the Foreign Mission Board, reinstated FMB administrator Tom Warrington — though not to his previous position — and apologized for the way the 13-year employee was fired June 23.

Warrington, associate area director for Europe, was fired by Area Director John Floyd nine days after Rankin was elected president. Floyd, who joined the FMB in February, said at the time that the move was part of a restructuring of the Europe staff and that the position required someone with "different strengths than Tom." Warrington was told he could apply for another position with the FMB.

Rankin said in a July 2 statement that he supported Floyd's decision to name a new associate director. "But I had no intention to terminate J. Thomas Warrington from the board, merely to transfer him internally."

Rankin did not label Warrington's dismissal a mistake or blame Floyd for mishandling the matter. But he said, "I and other administrators didn't spend enough time making certain everyone had communicated properly."

Rankin took responsibility for the episode and said he apologized to Warrington and the FMB staff.

"We all have learned a painful lesson that time must be taken, especially in such sensitive matters as personnel decisions, to make sure that proper communication occurs," he said. "Steps are being taken to make sure this type of incident does not happen again."

Rankin said he promised Warrington another position when he and Floyd met with Warrington July 1.

Warrington said he appreciated Rankin's "gracious" response. Asked if he will stay with the FMB, Warrington added, "I am not in an emotional state to make a decision." He told Associated

Baptist Press July 6 that he asked for, and was granted, time to consider his options.

At his firing, Warrington was given three months severance pay. In reinstating him, Rankin said Warrington "is still an employee of the Foreign Mission Board, with full pay and benefits. He is currently on administrative leave to allow time for him to consider options being offered."

"I deeply regret the pain and suffering this has caused Tom and his family," Rankin wrote. "He is an experienced, valued employee of the highest character and reputation. He has gifts we need in our organization. He has been faithful to the board in difficult times and deserves our respect and appreciation."

Warrington praised Rankin's actions, adding, "I think Jerry is trying to bring some degree of reconciliation.... I am appreciative of Jerry's sensitivity and I pray the Lord will give me guidance."

Mississippi gifts to CP up from 1992 amounts

Mississippi Baptist churches gave \$1,943,864 through the Cooperative Program in June, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds for churches. The June amount is \$85,311 more than that given in June of 1992.

Total giving for 1993 is \$10,802,473, \$14,042 (or .13%) more than that given in the same period of 1992.

At the halfway point in the year, giving is \$423,527 less than half of the budget of \$22,425,000. The pro rata amount, which is the total budget

divided by the number of months elapsed, would be \$11,226,000.

Cooperative Program gifts help fund missions and ministries in Mississippi and around the world by joining with 36 other state conventions in giving to the unified Cooperative Program.

On July 15, at 9 a.m. at the Baptist Building in Jackson, the convention board's budget committee will meet to hear recommendations from state Baptist agencies for the 1994 budget.

Later, the full convention board votes on the budget and the Mississippi Baptist Convention considers it at its November meeting.

SBC Cooperative Program gifts dip below totals for last year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts slipped below last year's totals following a drop of more than 18% for the month of June compared to 1992, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

All gifts to the SBC, Cooperative Program and designated, dropped below last year at this nine-month period of the SBC fiscal year: \$220,990,040 compared to \$223,988,748 for 1991-92, or a reduction of \$2,998,708,

which is 1.34%.

The June CP receipts were \$10,433,816 compared to June 1992 at \$12,789,989, an 18.42% difference. Total CP receipts year-to-date are \$103,337,478 compared to 1991-92 of \$105,259,545, a 1.83% reduction.

Designated gifts for June also fell compared to June 1992: \$12,423,898 compared to \$13,127,622, a 5.36% difference. For the year-to-date, designated gifts are \$117,652,561 compared to last year of \$118,729,203, a .91% difference.

Mississippians on standby...

Baptist volunteers respond to flood victims along the Mississippi River

MISSISSIPPI RIVER (BP) — Flooding along the Mississippi River has Baptist disaster relief units and Red Cross teams wet and worn out — yet still willing to work — as nature continues to wreak havoc across the Midwest region.

The Mississippi Brotherhood Disaster Relief Team has been called by Rob Carr of the Illinois Brotherhood to be on standby to go to the St. Louis area.

At press time, six members of the Disaster Relief Team had been called to Highland Church, Vicksburg, to set up the feeding unit to assist victims and volunteers in the city's flooded areas.

In Missouri, sweeping floods from the state's northwest to the northeast corner and south to the bootheel have destroyed homes, businesses, and land. Southern Baptist volunteers from St. Louis to Kansas City are working with Red Cross units in flooded areas along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, said Jim Albers, Missouri Baptist Convention state disaster relief coordinator.

Albers said the waterlogging from heavy thunderstorms and heavy rainfall compounded the

damage from flooding along the Mississippi in April. "The April floods were a Sunday stroll compared to this now. Houses are underwater, businesses are underwater, crops are lost... it's a mess."

Al Sorrell, Baptist volunteer from a church near Kansas City, is working at the Red Cross feeding kitchen in Winfield, between Hannibal and St. Louis. Sorrell said five Baptists work at the kitchen at any one time, usually rotating on a weekly basis. He added that Freemasons donated \$2,000 worth of food for the kitchen over the weekend.

Sorrell noted that volunteers have been serving more than 500 meals a day and predicted the situation will not let up soon.

"It is bad... and it's only going to get worse, not better," Sorrell said, estimating he will be working on and off at the site until September or October.

Albers, who is working out of a church in St. Louis, reported that 4,000 meals a day were being served at the church and carried out in Red Cross emergency relief vehicles (ERVs). More than 100 volunteers work at the site each day, including about 20 Baptists.

Albers said the 4,000 meals represents about half of all relief meals being served in Missouri.

In Hannibal, faculty, staff, and students at Hannibal-LaGrange College are sandbagging, putting plastic on tops of levees, helping with flood preparation and Salvation Army kitchens, and delivering meals to flood victims.

The college's parking lots have become temporary campsites for people parked in campgrounds now inundated by the Mississippi River. Students affected by the flood are allowed to stay in the dormitories free, and other flood victims will be able to stay in the dorms if Red Cross facilities are filled.

The college also is serving as a shuttle point for hundreds of area workers who are being bused to work on levees. HLG has offered its kitchen space to the Red Cross if demand becomes necessary.

The Red Cross had established 18 shelters statewide and involved more than 300 volunteers by July 9, but spokesman Andrew Rose said the number keeps increasing.

"Our operation is very static right now, and the numbers change daily," Rose explained.

The Army Corps of Engineers reported July 12 that nearly 7,000 people in St. Louis County were evacuated from their homes. Federal Emergency Managing Operations (FEMO) moved into the St. Louis area July 6 to head the relief operation with the Red Cross. Albers said Baptist volunteers will still be needed for food preparation and for clean up in coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Baptists in Iowa are "at a standstill" while the surging Mississippi River continues its assault on the state, reported Sherri Mertens, a staff member of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

"The waters are so high right now that not a whole lot of anything can be done," Mertens said July 12. The flooding also was preventing damage estimates, she said, explaining, "Everybody's just having to wait."

The Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship encompasses 82 congregations with 11,000 members. The fellowship's offices in Des Moines had not received any reports of flooded churches as of July 12, Mertens said.

Reports from Baptist leaders in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota were not available July 12.



Mr. and Mrs. Anthony E. Hines were recently named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board. They and their three children will live in Eastern Europe, where he will start and develop churches. Since 1990, he has been pastor of Mount Olive Church, Okolona. A native of Florida, he considers Duncanville, Texas, his hometown. Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, was influential in his Christian growth. He was educated at the University of Texas in Arlington, Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. A native of Houston, Texas, Mrs. Hines, the former Denyse Beller, received her education at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. She has been an elementary teacher and a BSU summer missionary.



Dennis and Bobbie Smithey (above) receive the Outstanding Small Church Pastor Award from Matt Buckles of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board during the Bible Preaching/Administration Conference at Gulfshore. Arnold and Bessie Ruth Davis Sr. (left) listen to the nomination materials which led to the Outstanding Small Church Pastor Award received for 1993.



Church Administration honors Smithey, Davis

Arnold Davis Sr. and Dennis Smithey were honored recently at Gulfshore Assembly as Outstanding Small Church Pastors for 1993 in Mississippi.

Davis, pastor of Macedonia Church in Winston County, and Smithey, pastor of Central Grove Church in Monroe County, were recognized during the Bible Preaching/Administration Conference at Gulfshore.

Each year the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board encourages nominations from directors of missions for pastors of churches with fewer than 300 in Sunday School. An independent committee decides the pastors to honor each year out of the nominated group.

Winston Director of Missions Paul Blanchard nominated Davis. He said that Davis has served Murphy Creek twice, 1970-76 and 1981-87, and Shiloh, 1989-91. Blanchard wrote, "Rev. Davis has a pastor's heart.... His powerful preaching of the Bible and effective biblical teaching has caused many to be faithful to church attendance. His loving heart has been a real witness to the lost of the community. This love and compassion is an attracting force to the church he serves."

MSC volunteer Sorrell dies

MISSOULA, Mont. — Mission Service Corps volunteer John W. Sorrell, 73, of Walls, died June 30 of pneumonia.

Sorrell, a former Memphis Transit Authority employee and retired service station owner, became ill suddenly Monday and was taken to the hospital in Missoula.

Sorrell and his wife, the former Venita Reeves of Memphis, sold their home in 1988 to work with

His son, Arnold Jr., has become pastor of Friendship Church, Sturgis, where Arnold Sr. once served as pastor.

Jim Harrington, director of missions for Monroe Association, nominated Smithey, noting he came to Central Grove in 1981. "He is the longest tenured full-time pastor in our association," he said.

Harrington cited statistics: enrollment growth in Sunday School from 120 in 1981 to 160 in 1992; average Sunday School attendance from 77 in 1981 to 118 in 1992; and total baptisms for 12 years is 58, with 66 other additions.

Smithey has led Central Grove to be debt free. The church built and paid for a \$125,000 pastorial in four years and they are making plans for a new sanctuary.

About both pastors, their directors of missions said that they are always there for the people in times of need.

Nationally, the Baptist Sunday School Board has an Outstanding Small Church Pastor award yearly from those recognized by the state. For 1993, these are William "Bill" Padgett, pastor of Convent Church, Leesville, S.C.; and John Cook, pastor of First Church, Boulder, Mont.

Bruce Cannon, former singles minister at Colonial Hills Church of Southaven. In Missoula, the Sorrells helped Cannon start Lincoln Street Baptist Church.

Mission Service Corps volunteers are assigned by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to work at least one year in ministry and evangelism work.

Services and burial were July 6.

House upholds modified ban on federally funded abortions

WASHINGTON (ABP) — In a highly charged and bitter battle, the U.S. House of Representatives upheld June 30 a 16-year-old ban on federally funded abortions for poor women.

Representatives voted 255 to 178 to approve a modified version of the Hyde amendment that has banned federal funding for abortions except to save the life of the mother. The new version adds exceptions in the cases of rape and incest.

The provision was adopted as part of an appropriations bill (H.R. 2518) that authorizes funding for the Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Education for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1994.

During debate Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Fla., called the policy unjust and said that it had victimized poor women for more than a decade.

"The right to abortion should not be based on income," she said. "Some taxpayers may object to

federal money going to pay for abortion, but they don't think twice about their insurance premiums paying for another policyholder's abortion."

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., author of the amendment, said that providing a constitutional right to an abortion does not mean taxpayers have to pay for it.

"We have a right of free speech," Hyde said. "Does that mean the government has to buy us a personal computer? A typewriter? A megaphone?"

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., said, "The right to choose is meaningless without the means to choose."

Hyde countered, "About those people that say the poor are discriminated against, you know what we do? We tell poor people, 'You can't have a job, you can't have a good education, you can't have a decent place to live. I will tell you what we will do. We will give you a free abortion.'"

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., responded, "I say to the

gentleman from Illinois (Hyde) that women are not beasts, and that is what we are really hearing here."

James Smith, director of government relations for the Christian Life Commission, said passage of the amendment "is a firm rebuke of Bill Clinton's abortion policies and a major win for the pro-life movement."

Smith said abortion opponents have not won a complete victory, however, because the amendment will be harder to pass in the Senate, where opposition to abortion funding is not as strong.

In other congressional action, the House narrowly approved an appropriations bill for the District of Columbia that permits the D.C. government to fund abortions for poor women. The bill was approved 213 to 211.

A provision for an insurance program for "domestic partners" that would have included homosexual partners was defeated.

The D.C. bill likewise will go to the U.S. Senate for action.

NOBTS trustee board approves faculty promotions, elections

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary's trustee executive board approved two faculty promotions and the first occupant of the fully endowed John T. Westbrook Chair of Church History during their June meeting in New Orleans.

The trustee board also elected five new faculty members, three filling vacancies created by retirements and two newly created positions in the seminary's baccalaureate program. The five hirings are effective August 1.

Promoted were Joe E. Trull to professor of Christian ethics and Paul W. Gericke to professor of communications. Mississippian Claude L. Howe Jr. was confirmed as the first occupant of new church history chair.

Trull's denominational experience includes service as chairman of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission, 1972-73. He has written numerous articles for denominational publications, as well as several books, including *Ministerial Ethics: Being a Good Minister in a Not-So-Good World* (Broadman, 1993).

Gericke, who joined the NOBTS staff in 1965 as director of library services, has helped with several firsts at the seminary: initiating a media center; founding WBSN, the city's only 24-hour Christian FM radio station; and establishing the seminary's Communication Center. He has served as pastor of churches in Missouri, Kentucky, and Mississippi.

Howe, professor of church history at New Orleans Seminary since 1960, has served since 1972 as the

first chairman of NOBTS' division of theological and historical studies.

Howe, a native of Senatobia, is the author of the new history book for New Orleans Seminary, *Seventy-Five Years of Providence and Prayer*. A 1948 graduate of Mississippi College who earned advanced degrees from Purdue University in 1950 and New Orleans Seminary in 1957 and 1959, Howe also is known for writing numerous articles on church history for scholarly journals and denominational publications.

Among those elected to the faculty is Harold R. Mosley, a Mississippi native who will serve as assistant professor of Old Testament and Hebrew in the division of biblical studies. A native of Cleveland, Mosley received the bachelor of business administration degree from Delta State University, Cleveland, in 1984; he earned both the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees, 1989 and 1992 respectively, from New Orleans Seminary. He has been a supplementary teacher for the seminary since 1991. Mosley has also served as pastor of four churches in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Others elected to the faculty are Gerald Wright, associate professor of missions in the division of theological and historical studies; Kenneth B. Taylor Jr., assistant professor of evangelism in the division of pastoral ministries; and A. Perry Hancock, assistant professor of Christian education, and Thomas Strong III, assistant professor of theological studies, both in the school of Christian Training.

In another personnel matter, Charles S. Kelley Jr. has been named director of the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth. An associate professor of evangelism at the seminary since August 1983, Kelley was appointed to the director's position by Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president.



New Education Commission director

Stephen P. Carleton, 55, executive vice-president and academic dean at California Baptist College since 1971, was unanimously elected executive director of the Education Commission June 27 during the annual meeting of the commission in Riverside, Calif. Carleton will succeed Arthur L. Walker Jr., who will retire Sept. 1. (California Baptist College photo)

"Americans United" protests hasty decision on ambassador to Vatican

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Americans United for Separation of Church and State expressed great disappointment at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's "hasty and unpublicized decision to proceed with hearings today (June 30 — See related article, "Capsules," p. 6) to confirm Raymond Flynn as ambassador to the Holy See."

Barry W. Lynn, Americans United executive director, said, "We are deeply disappointed that the committee has chosen to move full steam ahead to continue the official relationship between the United States government and the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. The First Amendment of the Constitution forbids just such entanglement between religion and government. We are sorry the com-

mittee has ignored the wide range of criticism from religious and civil liberties groups about the dangers inherent in such a relationship."

Noting that Flynn, like the three previous ambassadors to the Vatican, is Roman Catholic, Lynn expressed concern that the U.S. government is establishing a *de facto* religious test for this office.

"Article Six of the Constitution forbids any religious test for public office," Lynn observed. "At a minimum, the appointment of a Catholic again demonstrates the quintessentially religious nature of the post."

Lynn suggested that the committee would be well advised to recall President John F. Kennedy's observations on this matter. Kennedy, America's first Catholic president, said, "I am

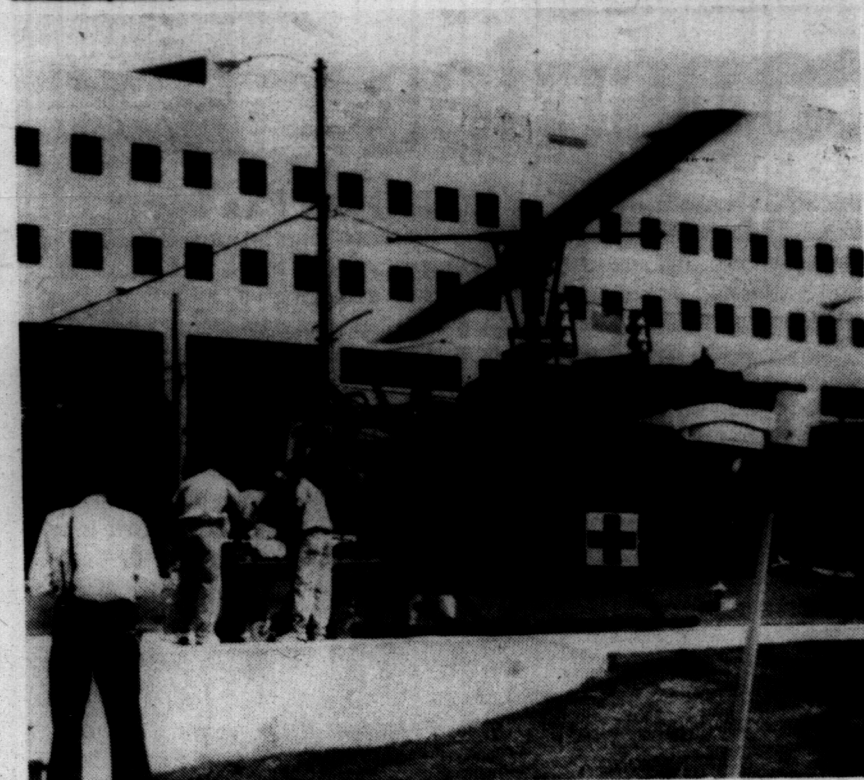
flatly opposed to appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican. Whatever advantages it might have in Rome — and I'm not convinced of these — they would be more than offset by the divisive effect at home."

U.S.-Vatican diplomatic ties were established by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. Americans United and a broad coalition of religious groups filed a legal challenge, but the federal courts refused to intervene, calling the appointment a political and foreign policy matter assigned to the executive branch of government.

Americans United is a 50,000-member religious liberty watchdog group, based in the Washington, D.C. suburb of Silver Springs, Md. The organization, founded in 1947, is nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

Thursday, July 15, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Emergency delivery

With rotor still whirring overhead, Hosea-Carminio Osequera is unloaded June 25 at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson by hospital staffers and members of the U.S. Army Reserve unit that delivered the 13-year-old Honduran boy for emergency treatment of injuries suffered in his native country when struck by a truck June 6. The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board coordinated the trip to Jackson after learning of his plight from mission workers involved in the Mississippi-Honduras Partnership project. Hosea's medical care and other expenses are being donated through arrangements with the Brotherhood Commission. Spanish translators are needed for the duration of Hosea's stay in Mississippi. To volunteer, call Vicki McCall at (601) 924-3556. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Program, dates set for 1993 Mississippi Baptist Convention

By Tim Nicholas

The annual Mississippi Baptist Convention will take place at First Church, Jackson, Nov. 16-17, with the theme "Pray Ye Therefore..." according to Order of Business Committee Chairman Roy Myers of Meadville. Closing speaker will be S. Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-Fil-A.

At the meeting, messengers from the 2,000 participating Mississippi Baptist churches will take care of the business matters of the convention. They will elect a new president to succeed W.W. Walley of Waynesboro, who is completing his second one-year term. And they will consider a Cooperative Program budget which helps fund Mississippi and worldwide missions and education causes.

In addition, a number of speakers will provide inspiration. Speakers include Walley, a physician, who will deliver his president's address on Tuesday morning; and the convention sermon, which host pastor, Frank Pollard, will preach on Wednesday morning.

Other major speakers include Ken Hemphill, Bill Causey, Don Wilton, and Cathy. Hemphill, director of the Church Growth Center, operated jointly by the Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak

Tuesday afternoon. Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will deliver his report on Tuesday evening. Wilton, a New Orleans Seminary professor, will speak Wednesday afternoon.

The Bible Treasures speaker will be T.W. Hunt, prayer ministry coordinator for the BSSB. Bible Treasures is a tradition at the convention with the devotionals delivered during both morning and afternoon sessions.

Music will come from a variety of sources including, the sanctuary choir of First Church, Waynesboro, Walley's home church, prior to his message on Tuesday morning; a men's ensemble from First Church, McComb, singing on Tuesday afternoon; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, on Tuesday evening; Doctors Four from First Church, Laurel, Wednesday morning; the Mississippi College Chorale, Wednesday afternoon; and a mass senior adult choir for the closing session.

Other members of the Order of Business Committee are Ann Colbert, Forest; Jimmy Porter, McComb; Mickey Dalrymple, Columbus; Fred Womack, Bay St. Louis; and Chuck Hampton, Flora.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.

Upstart project sets ambitious goal of bringing Mississippians together

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mission Mississippi may soon provide an answer for countless Mississippi Baptists and others who have prayed for a way to bring together the diverse, often-contentious groups that make up the state's population, according to those involved in the innovative project.

"Mission Mississippi began in the prayers of many people as a means of reconciliation and dialogue across races, denominations, and socio-economic barriers. Evangelism is at the heart, but much more is being done," said Elizabeth K. Holmes, consultant for family and women's issues with the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Holmes became involved in the project as a result of a January 1993 meeting at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson, attended by about 600 people including eight Southern Baptists and three Southern Baptist pastors.

At the meeting, Tom Skinner and Pat Morely talked about their deep, bi-racial friendship and their plans for exporting such relation-

ships through the organization that eventually became known as Mission Mississippi. They believe Jackson is a good place to start.

"The division in the body of Christ in this city is most visible at the point of color. If you're going



to attack the embarrassment to the kingdom of God that we have created in our city, the place to do this is at the point of color," Morely said.

The organization's vision state-

ment describes the project as "A mission outreach to unify the body of Christ from every walk of life by continuing to break down the walls that divide us by race and denominational backgrounds."

Holmes is one of several state Baptists closely involved in the project. She is serving on the organization's executive committee; as co-chair of the music committee for a massive, three-night rally to be held Oct. 24-26 at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson; and as a member of the publicity committee for the rally.

"It's going to take a lot of work," she said.

Additional details on the rally will soon be released, and Skinner wants Mississippians to be prepared for God to touch their hearts.

"[Mission Mississippi] is not an event; it is a movement of the Spirit of God among his people," he said.

For more information, contact the Mission Mississippi office at P.O. Box 22655, Jackson, MS 39225-2655. Telephone: (601) 353-6477.

Catholics interested in "True Love Waits"

NASHVILLE (BP) — Leaders at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. have expressed interest in possible involvement in the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored "True Love Waits" campaign.

Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the BSSB and one of the coordinators of the sexual abstinence campaign aimed at teenagers, was scheduled to meet July 13 with leaders from the bishops' Secretariat for Family Life, Women, and Youth.

"I will lay out the details of the campaign, answer any questions, and invite them to participate," Ross said, adding the campaign

could possibly be linked to Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States next month.

"The pope will speak to approximately 100,000 Catholic teenagers at a rally in Denver in August, and he will likely address the topic of sexual purity. I intend to propose that, after the pope's address, other Catholic leaders invite the teenagers to sign covenants to remain sexually pure

until marriage," Ross said.

Ross noted that several other denominations and para-church groups have expressed interest in "True Love Waits," which was introduced in April by the BSSB.

"In the beginning, 'True Love Waits' was envisioned as a campaign for just Southern Baptists. None of us anticipated the interest other denominations... have shown," Ross said.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the June 17 issue of the Baptist Record: Chickasaw: Pleasant Grove; Hinds-Madison: Country Woods; Lauderdale: Pine Forest; and Neshoba: County Line.

capsules

MISSIONARY SHOT IN ATTEMPTED CAR ROBBERY: BLANTYRE, Malawi (BP) — One Southern Baptist missionary was shot in the leg and another was injured July 4 when the two were assaulted during an attempted car robbery in Lilongwe, Malawi. Lloyd Farmer, a general evangelist from Crossett, Ark., was working under the hood of a car on the grounds of a mission guest house when two men entered the fenced compound with drawn handguns and demanded the keys to the car. When Farmer, 37, attempted to give the keys to the gunmen by removing them from the car's ignition switch, both men became excited and began shooting wildly into the air and ground. One shot hit Farmer in his right calf. People from the street began entering the gates of the compound to see what was happening. The growing crowd may have forced the robbers to break off their attack and run from the compound, said missionary Ernest Sibley, who gave details of the incident in a telephone interview with Baptist Press.

THE CHRISTIAN ACTION NETWORK (CAN) OPPOSES NOMINATION OF TOM PAYZANT: WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — The Christian Action Network is opposing President Bill Clinton's nomination of Tom Payzant as assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education. As superintendent of schools in San Diego, Payzant evicted the Boy Scouts from public school facilities because of the group's exclusion of homosexuals. According to CAN, he also supported condom distribution, instituted a controversial sex education program, and prohibited teachers from giving "F" grades because, he said, it would hurt the self-esteem of students.

SENATE CONFIRMS FLYNN AS VATICAN AMBASSADOR: WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Senate confirmed Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn as the next U.S. ambassador to the Vatican June 30. Confirmed one day after receiving a favorable recommendation from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Flynn will be the third person to fill the post since President Ronald Reagan appointed William Wilson in 1984 after Congress repealed a legislative ban on U.S.-Vatican ties in 1983. Flynn's nomination by President Bill Clinton has been criticized by Baptists and others who oppose formal ties between the United States and the Roman Catholic Church. One Baptist senator, Jesse Helms, R-N.C., spoke against the post of ambassador to the Vatican but not against the nominee himself. "I judge him to be an intelligent and personable man..." Helms said of Flynn. "Just the same, I remain persuaded that the United States has no business sending an ambassador to any religious entity, be it Baptist or Methodist or, as is the case here, the seat of the Catholic Church."

AFA CREDITS BOYCOTT FOR INCOME DROP: TUPELO (EP) — The K Mart Corporation announced June 22 that net income for the second quarter will be "significantly below" earnings of 37 cents a share a year ago, a drop the American Family Association (AFA) attributes to its two-year-old boycott of the retailer. AFA is promoting a boycott of K Mart because the chain sells pornography through its Waldenbooks subsidiary.

Charles Stanley's wife seeks legal separation

By Herb Hollinger

ATLANTA (BP) — Asking for prayer at the end of the July 4 morning services, Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, told the congregation his wife, Anna, had filed for "separate maintenance."

Stanley, one of Southern Baptists' most widely-known radio and television preachers, said he is committed to reconciliation and asked for prayer that "God will heal our marriage."

Senior pastor of the 13,000-member congregation for 23 years, Stanley said to the congregation, "I need you to pray for me and my wife. Many of you have known that we have been having difficulty for some time."

"Last week Anna filed an action against me and it appears that a separation is now unavoidable, which I deeply regret. I am committed to reconciliation. I am asking you to pray that God would heal our marriage," Stanley said.

Stanley, 60, is the speaker on the

"In Touch" radio and television program broadcast throughout the U.S. and in every country of the world. He was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1984 and 1985.

The Stanleys have been married for 38 years. They have two adult children, Andy and Becky, and three grandchildren.

The announcement by Stanley surprised the congregation, officials said, but members voiced their "complete support for the pastor and his family."

"Over the past 23 years I have walked with you through your heartaches and griefs; now, I am asking you to walk with us through ours. I want to ask you to be gracious and sensitive by not discussing this situation unnecessarily, because to do so would cause more hurt and embarrassment for both of us. The most helpful thing you could do is pray," Stanley said.

Hollinger is director, Baptist Press.

Analysis

Abortion: Child Sacrifice in the '90s?

By John D. Currid

This edited article by John Currid is reprinted from *Ministry*, Summer 1993, by permission of Reformed Theological Seminary.

People often ask me what has been my most interesting and rewarding archaeological experience. Apart from watching "Raiders of the Lost Ark" five times, I would have to say it was serving as field supervisor of the recent excavations at Carthage in Tunisia.

The most significant part of the American excavations occurred in the Tophet, the word from the Old Testament referring to child sacrifice (2 Kings 23:10, Jer. 7:30-32). Modern excavators applied the term to a cemetery bearing remains of children ritually sacrificed as burnt offerings. It is the largest sacrificial cemetery ever found, measuring 60,000 square feet. Most stunning is the number of children sacrificed here — estimated at a minimum of 20,000 burials between 400-200 B.C.

Scholars vigorously debate the purpose of child sacrifice at Carthage. Some ancient cultures sacrificed humans to gain an increase from the gods. Other cultures sacrificed humans to avert or dispel evil things. Child sacrifice was a form of manipulating the pagan deity, an attempt to satisfy the bloodthirstiness of the gods so that nothing was left to chance.

Many scholars are convinced that this religious conniving was the basis of child sacrifice at Carthage. These cultic rituals played a major role in the practice of child sacrifice at Carthage. However, they do not account for all aspects of it.

For example, we should note that most children were sacrificed when the city was at its height, prosperous and militarily strong. Conversely, when Carthage was at its most vulnerable, fewer child immolations occurred. If human sacrifice were merely for the intervention of the divine, we would expect the exact opposite.

Such problems have led archaeologists to suggest another possibility: infanticide for population control. In other words, child sacrifice was not merely religious ritual, but a practical solution to a civic problem — overpopulation.

We know that at its height

Carthage sustained a population of 200,000. Studies have shown that the agricultural capacity of the area simply could not support such a large group. So, archaeologists have theorized that the Carthaginians helped ease population strain by destroying a non-threatening

appears to be the same logic used by the ancient Carthaginians.

Some critics have responded by saying such a parallel is bogus because modern societies are more "civilized" than ancient Carthage. Is this really true? Of all the societies I have studied, primitive cultures have little evidence of abortion or infanticide; they are primarily the practices of the higher cultures of antiquity.

It seems that the only difference between our societies and Carthage of old is that we have sanitized the process. We do not offer our children to some idol; we destroy them in a most orderly and hygienic fashion. Ours are sacrifices of convenience without any facade of religious motivation.

gious motivation.

In truth, we are merely unmasked Carthaginians.

Currid is associate professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson.



Carthage



segment of the city's inhabitants.

Whether this theory is correct is debatable. At this time, it does appear to be a plausible reconstruction of the evidence available to us. With that in mind, I would like to suggest some interesting parallels with modern abortion and infanticide practices.

Rarely do pro-abortion groups today fail to mention abortion as a means of population control in a world that cannot sustain the people already here. Frankly, that

Armitage Church, Chicago organizes march against Bulls-related violence

CHICAGO (ABP) — Armitage Church organized a "prayer march" June 23 through the streets of the church's Chicago neighborhood where three days earlier the celebration of the Chicago Bulls' NBA championship turned to violence.

During the post-victory celebration June 20, Julio Castillo was shot and killed. The assailant has not been caught.

"Bulls win. Kid dies. It doesn't equate," Pastor Charles Lyons told the 300 marchers, most members of Armitage Church, which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We can't blame the president, the governor, the mayor, or the police," Lyons said. "There are some things we can only do for ourselves. We must be responsible citizens."

"The fact that this crime took place in the middle of a main thoroughfare at the height of the celebration in front of hundreds of onlookers, and the police have no one willing to talk, simply is an indication of how badly society has deteriorated," Lyons said.

The purpose of the march, which involved nine other neighborhood organizations in addition to the church, was to "demonstrate spiritual aggression" against the killing and call on witnesses to come forward, Lyons said. Posters placed around the neighborhood asked witnesses to contact police.

The march, called "Saints in the Hood," covered five city blocks and attracted wide media coverage. Arriving at the corner where Castillo was shot, the marchers prayed and sang.

March for Jesus draws over 1,000,000

LONDON, England (EP) — March for Jesus, the United Kingdom initiated movement that brings the church into the streets, surrounded the globe on June 12. An estimated 1.3 million Christians in 40 nations joined the March for Jesus in 850 cities and towns worldwide.

The marches ranged in size from 50,000 in Brasilia, to small village-sized events across the U.K. and North America. Six marches in Japan drew over 5,000 Christians, and over a million people marched

in the U.S. alone, with events in every state.

Among the nations holding their first-ever March for Jesus were Fiji, Mongolia, Tanzania, Finland, Hungary, Brazil, and Guyana. Similar events took place earlier in the year in New Zealand, Australia, and Nigeria.

Over 60,000 Christians from a wide range of churches marched in over 314 locations throughout the United Kingdom. There were 80 additional marches throughout

Europe, involving another 150,000 people.

March for Jesus, which combines street celebration with prayer for the world, started in 1987 when four London-based churches called for a march of prayer that drew 15,000 people. The annual event has spread to the rest of the world, and is coordinated by Gerald Coates of Pioneer, Roger Forster of Ichthus Christian Fellowship, Lynn Green of Youth With A Mission, and worship leader Graham Kendrick.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 15, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Tonyah Stanley & Gayla Perry Cooperative Program Champions

by Debbie Baird Buie

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money your church contributes to the Southern Baptist unified, voluntary missions and education funding system called the Cooperative Program? This is a series concerning what happens to the money after it leaves your church. **This week: when it gets to the Baptist Building.**



Tonyah Stanley (l) and Gayla Perry (r)

It's the job of Accounting Specialist Tonyah Stanley to remove checks and "pink slips" from the specially prepared envelopes used by Mississippi Baptist churches to mail their Cooperative Program gifts to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. It isn't a job she takes lightly or by rote. She is careful when opening the envelope and before she discards the envelopes she will have checked and double checked them for any previously unseen bit of paper.

Such caution and diligence to her task is continued as Stanley enters the receipts and all pertinent information into the ledger in her computer.

Article continued on back page

"I always thought that **HOUSE TOPS** was just for the church staff... until I read about free concerts for church members like me. (See back page for location of the **All State Youth Choir** concerts)



Lead ON, Mississippi

Each year, Mississippi Baptists have the opportunity to support a group of ministries through a special offering. The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering for 1994 has a goal of \$687,350.

The ministries supported through this offering, promoted especially this September, include some of the most direct, hands-on work we do together.

The money will go for mobile chapel and site purchase assistance for new churches, for piano lessons and summer camp for Choctaw Indians, for Camp Garaywa and Central Hills upkeep, for student work on black campuses, for disaster relief, for church building and pastoral aid, for an ongoing ministry to Parchman staffers and to a developing jail ministry, to Mississippi church planter Dottie Williamson, to special projects with National Baptist women, and to promote the offering through WMU.

Without this offering, most of these projects will not be funded. Below is a chart of the allocations for the offering.

ALLOCATIONS

| | 1994 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| New Missions | \$170,000 |
| Central Hills | 186,000 |
| Camp Garaywa | 170,000 |
| Disaster Relief | 48,000 |
| Special Ministries | 6,000 |
| National Baptists | \$3,000 |
| Choctaw Indians | 3,000 |
| Parchman Ministries | 20,000 |
| Jail and Prison Ministries | 12,350 |
| Church Bldg/Pastoral Aid | 40,000 |
| Student Work, Black Campuses | 20,000 |
| Church Planter, Hinds-Madison | 10,000 |
| Missions Awareness | 5,000 |
| TOTAL GOAL FOR 1994 | \$687,350 |



The Margaret Lackey Offering for
STATE MISSIONS
September 1993

PRAYERGRAM July 15-29, 1993

PRAY for many Ethiopian Baptist believers who are experiencing a difficult time of persecution. Some houses are being stoned and young people who become Christians are frequently expelled from their homes. At the same time thank God for the new Baptist Church in Kaye in the Manz district of Ethiopia—the first non Orthodox church in this area in more than 1,500 years.

PRAY for the Jordan MKs (missionary kids) who attend the American Community School, that they will be effective witnesses to their friends at school.

PRAY for the Emmanuel Baptist Association, made up of churches and missions from the states of Jalisco, Nayarit and Colima, as they have a goal of doubling the number of churches in their Association.

PRAY for the 500 ethnic groups living in the United States. They speak 636 languages and dialects. Pray for Language Missions Day to be celebrated August 8, 1993. Less than .5 of ethnic groups in our nation are members of SB congregations.

PRAY for David Cummings of Cadillac, Mich. He is a church planter-pastor of the Evergreen Baptist Church. The church is trying to start sev-

eral Bible studies. Pray that people in different areas will open their homes for weekly Bible studies.

PRAY for Anis Shorosh, a vocational evangelist who is helping develop a television series called "The Koran or the Bible: Which is God's Way?" This series will be aired on a program called "Truth in Christ" in six cities: Phoenix, El Paso, New Orleans, Memphis, Mobile and Nashville. Pray for God to use the series to convert Muslims to Christ and to keep others from converting to Islam.

PRAY that summer camp activities will lead children and young people to consider the importance of life dedication to whatever God wants them to do.

PRAY for the Multi-housing Ministry of Hinds-Madison Baptist Association, under the leadership of Dottie Williamson. Pray that all the churches of the association will cooperate in some way within this important ministry during the summer months.

PRAY for Centrifuge to be held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly the last of July. Many young people in our convention have had their lives turned around in attendance at Centrifuge.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYERLINE 969-PRAY

VAN APPEAL

Victory Baptist Church in Anchorage, Alaska is in desperate need of a 15-passenger van. Their old school bus has expired and they are bringing in VBS children with vans borrowed from other churches. After VBS they will not have access to vans on Sunday.

Perhaps some Mississippi church has a good van they would donate to Victory Baptist, or maybe contribute funds to allow the purchase of one or more vans in Alaska.

The Alaska Convention has verified the need of Victory Baptist and has given assurance that the congregation will be good stewards of their use.

Interested persons should contact the Partnership Missions Office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 601/968-3800.

Bill Hardy, coordinator
Partnership Missions Office

FAMILY MINISTRY TRAINING

• SENIOR ADULTS

• SINGLE ADULTS

• FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Friday Night and Saturday Morning
August 13-14, 1993

Lake Tiak-O'Khata Resort

Louisville, Miss. ... Known for its beautiful setting and outstanding food

SENIOR ADULTS ••• Jay Johnston

Senior Adult Specialist, Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept., BSSB

SINGLE ADULTS ••• Tim Cleary

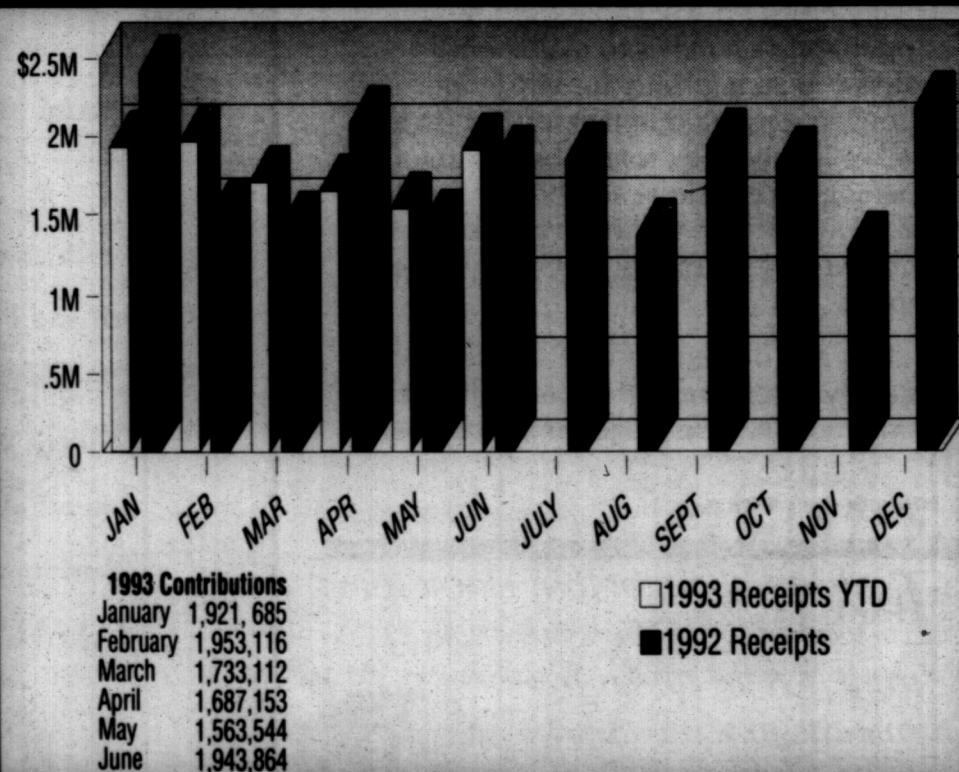
Single Adult Specialist, Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept., BSSB

FAMILY ENRICHMENT ••• Phil Waugh

Family Ministry Leadership Specialist, Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept., BSSB

Registration form for this training conference is on the back page of **HOUSE TOPS**.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS: 1993



HOUSE TOPS

4th Annual Minister's Golf Tournament

Co-sponsored by
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
and the
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION
BOARD

July 29-30, 1993

Live Oaks

Country Club

\$50.00

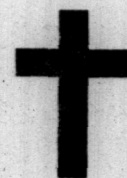
for two days and two lunches

Two man Scramble
(team-up with your partner)

Call Dot Nixon 925-3263



HOW MUCH AND HOW BEST TO PAY THE PREACHER



Do you need a step by step plan to pay the preacher for your church committee? Frank G. Schwall, Jr., senior vice-president in charge of Member Services of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, has written a booklet on how much to pay the preacher. Some preachers may already have this booklet as it was an insert in this year's compensation issue of *The Years Ahead* publication. Some new features in this booklet are special helps, sample forms, and worksheets.

Churches are beginning now to have budget committee meetings in preparation for budgets that begin October 1 and run through September 30. This booklet has information concerning the arrangement of the support package which you pay your preacher, in order that the church may be the best steward of the tithes and offerings given to the church by its members. There is also information on tax reporting requirements and special help on how to administer reimbursement funds and establish a reimbursement policy. There is information on how to establish and apply housing allowance, plus some forms that pertain to this.

If you would like a copy of this booklet, you may call 601-968-3825, or you may write to Bill Sellers, Church Minister Relations and Annuity Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. We will be happy to send you this booklet at no cost to you.

Get on the **RIGHT TRACK**

TRACK #1 Great Commission Consultant Training

TRACK #2 Sunday School Leadership

TRACK #3 Special Ministries for Adult Leadership

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, MS

September 17-18, 1993

Conference Leaders and Titles

General Officers - Rick Spencer, Pastor, FBC, Minden, LA

ADULT:

Young Adult - (18-34) Jeff Ingram, Minister of Education, FBC, Wiggins

Median Adult - (35-64) Bill Crider, Minister of Education, FBC, Minden, LA

Senior Adult - (65+) Larry Salter, MBCB

YOUTH:

Workers - (New - less than 2 years) Sean Keith, MBCB

Workers - (2 years or more) Ann Cannon, Writer/Conference Leader, Wieuca Road, Atlanta, GA

CHILDREN:

Department Directors - Lily Culp, Special Worker, Central, Golden

Teachers - Evelyn Vaughn, Special Worker, FBC, Jackson

PRESCHOOL:

Department Directors - Peggy Ward, Special Worker, Highland, Vicksburg

Teachers - Cindy Sansing, Minister to Children/Preschool, Park Place, Brandon

Children/Preschool Division Directors/Staff - Linda Reeves, MBCB

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRACK:

Special Education - Bobbi McCain, Special Ed Director, East Orlando, Orlando, FL

For registration information, please contact the Sunday School Dept., of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board by calling 968-3800 or writing Sunday School Dept., MBCB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

.....
Hattiesburg

July 16, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
University Baptist Church
3200 Arlington Loop
(one block south of Hardy Street, in
front of USM)

.....
Pass Christian

July 17, 1993, 11:00 a.m.
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Henderson Point

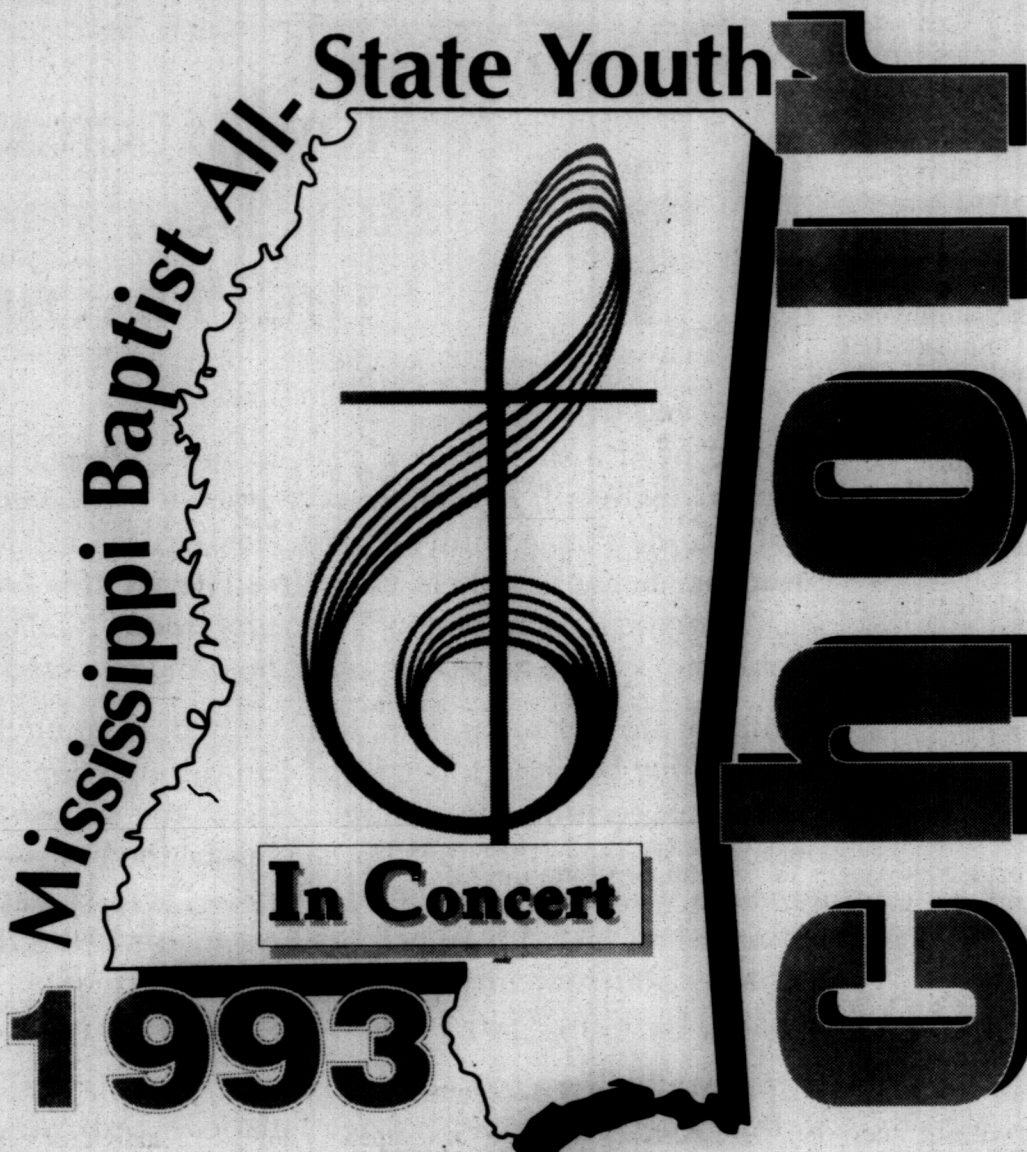
.....
Ocean Springs

July 17, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
Gulf Coast Youth Music Celebration
First Baptist Church
602 Washington Avenue
(corner of Washington and Porter)

.....
Laurel

July 18, 1993, 10:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church
607 West 5th Street

State Youth



In Concert

1993

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

Sponsored by the
CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

.....
Greenwood

July 18, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
500 W. Washington

.....
Oxford

July 19, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
North Oxford Baptist Church
Old Highway 7 North
(2 miles north of the square)

.....
Tupelo

July 20, 1993, 11:30 a.m.
West Jackson Street Baptist Church
1349 W. Jackson Street

.....
Jackson

July 20, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
Alta Woods Baptist Church
168 Colonial Drive

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Registration Form

name _____ phone _____
address _____
city _____ state _____ zip _____
church _____ association _____

Check conference attending: ☐ Single Adult Assn. Leader
☐ Senior Adult Assn. Leader ☐ Family Enrich. Assn. Leader
☐ Single Adult Church Leader ☐ Senior Adult Church Leader
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Roommate Requested: _____

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Registration must be received by JULY 31, 1993

Article continued from front page

She verifies that the check and the pink slip are in agreement as to amount and that the check isn't missing a signature. The pink slip, a form filled out by each contributing church, must also pass muster—every dime in the check must be allocated to a specific fund on the slip. It is the pink slip which tells the MBCB how much of the church's offering goes to the Cooperative Program and how much to a special offering or other designated fund such as the Baptist Children's Village.

Once every check is entered (except for those which have discrepancies or some other question) the entire entry is balanced. Forms are filled out and churches are telephoned or written when something doesn't jibe. Only then does Stanley's work go on to Accounting Specialist A Gayla Perry who prepares the deposit. She is the one who handles most of the discrepancies with church treasurers. Perry also prepares the checks

that MBCB mails in turn to the recipients of the church's offerings, such as to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville, the mission boards for the special missions offerings, or to the church's affiliated association.

Perry and Stanley are very aware of the magnitude of their positions. They believe that in their jobs they work for each person whose tithes and offerings are represented in the checks they handle.

"We try very hard to do things well and efficiently. It's kind of humbling. This isn't our money, or even the people's, but God's money," Stanley says. □



The Cooperative Program

HOUSE OF

Letters to the editor

Editor's Note: We continue to receive letters on the Freemasonry issue. Most of these letters, pro and con, say about the same thing. Our readers are well informed; thus, we discourage any further letters on the issue.

Turn to God

Editor:

It has been laid upon my heart to write this letter, and it also saddens and makes me tremble to think what is to happen if I do not write this.

Around 400 years ago, this country was settled by God-fearing, Bible-believing people. Time has come for Christians to be seen, heard, and felt in the government of the United States. It is time to contact your congressman or woman and express to them your views on homosexuality — not just your views but what the Word of God has said about it.

President Clinton was elected on the pretense that he is a Christian and I know a lot of Christians helped put him in office, but apparently he was a wolf in

sheep's clothing. God help him is my prayer; he must repent or be stripped of his power as president of the U.S.

The Constitution does not state all the grounds for impeachment nor does it limit them, but as Christians of America we can call upon Congress to ask for the removal of Bill Clinton on moral and irreconcilable differences, and we will not support them for reelection unless they listen to us.

The Depression and the wars the U.S. fought were considered tribulation by many people, but unless the U.S. (meaning the people) change and start seeking God, tribulation has yet to be seen. It is time to go back to the basics that were the foundations of America — God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible.

Ronald B. Douglas
Lawrence County

Seeking minister

Editor:

Ingram Church, Baldwin, is in search of a part-time minister of music and minister of youth.

Resumes may be sent to the Search Committee, Ingram Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Box 87, Baldwin, MS 38824; telephone (601) 365-2782.

Joe Herndon, pastor
Ingram Church

Lower the volume

Editor:

I have a gripe. I may be opening a can of worms, but having just returned from the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Texas, I've decided I'd like to start a movement to "reduce the decibels."

I can't understand why musicians want to make the music so loud you can't understand it. I believe that the message, the words, of a song is more important than the accompaniment. But if the music is so loud that you cannot hear the message, why have a choir to practice or sing? It really doesn't seem logical.

I know that David said, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord," but then he never had heard of an electronic noise-maker. Why

should it be turned up so high that a soloist has to scream to be heard above it?

The best musicianship is not determined by how loudly a person can scream. Nor do I believe that music that cannot be understood because of its velocity, is really conducive to worship.

The Beatles came to America with their loud, blaring, blasting music, and for some reason, many church musicians decided the Beatles velocity was just what was needed in public worship.

Personally, I'd like to have more worshipful music, with less volume. I don't believe I'm alone in my thinking. If there are others out there who feel as I do, how about speaking up? (Or rather, yelling up, so you can be heard!)

Dan Morton
Retired Mississippi pastor

Cast not aside...

Editor:

I am responding with a hearty Amen to the 61-year-old preacher whose letter you published last week (Baptist Record, July 1, 1993).

A preacher in his 60s should not be cast aside by the churches. After all, isn't this what the churches desire — men who know the Bible; men who know God; men who can preach; men who love the church; men who love the pastorate?

Over the years they have learned to do these things well. They can handle the little problems. They understand and know how to get along very well with the people. They have grown in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Then, too, they have a joy and a peace about them that has come upon them from God himself.

We preach to our senior adults this promise: "Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone" (Psalms 71:9).

Perhaps the churches should take this to heart. If a man is wise and godly and in reasonably good health, they should count it a privilege to call him as their pastor.

Tom F. Rayburn, pastor
Second Avenue Church
Laurel

Can churches learn outreach tools from business?

By Paul Griffin Jones II

A recent television commercial opens with the head of a firm bemoaning the loss of a long-term and previously faithful client along with many other newer accounts. The sales staff is given tickets to enable them to visit the lost clients and to attempt to get them to return as clients. When asked by one of the staff what he was going to do, the head of the firm replies that he is going to go and visit with the long-time client and see if he can regain a lost friend.

The church faces a similar problem when confronted with the statistical fact that half the membership is, at best, inactive and most cannot be located or have joined other church groups or cults.

"Where have all the people gone?" is not just the title of a song but a question that speaks to the heart of the witness and ministry of the church.

In one sense the church and contemporary business share a common reality — the needs, expectations, and frustrations of people they hope to reach. Recent studies have pointed out that business must be focused on a central concern: the "customer."

Can the church be reminded by these studies that while it must be centered on the person of Christ and the integrity of its biblical witness, the church must also focus on the needs, expectations, and frustrations of the people whom Christ came "to seek and to save?"

One recent study found that most lost customers were dissatisfied customers. The study pointed out that 96% never complain about what they perceive to be poor service or a poor product.

Most people will not share their concern; the study pointed out that 90% simply never return to the store again. The business does not get a second chance from a frustrated and dissatisfied customer.

Moreover, the study showed that each dissatisfied customer will tell at least nine other people about their dissatisfaction, and 13% will tell at least 20 other people. One bad experience for only one person can negatively impact more people than the average business can reach with all its positive pro-

"Where have all the people gone?" is... a question that speaks to the heart... of the church.

motions and marketing attempts.

When people leave a business because of dissatisfaction, many turn to a competitor. Studies of why people change business loyalty illustrate the need for excellence in service. The study indicated that 40% said they left because of poor service, 30% of the reasons for leaving were lumped as "other," 20.5% could not define a reason but just did not like what they found, 8.3% perceived the product as inferior, and 8.3% thought that it would cost too much.

Another study arrived at similar conclusions. The study pointed out the primary reasons people stop doing business with a company: 3% move away, 5% develop other

friendships, 9% leave for competitive reasons, 14% were dissatisfied with the product, and 68% perceived an attitude of indifference.

Yet, there is good news in the studies. Of those surveyed, 70% indicated that they would do business again if the problem was resolved and 95% would do business if the problem was resolved on the spot. The business that immediately addresses a problem and focuses on the needs of the people will live to do business another day.

What can the church learn? The study pointed out four fundamentals that apply to any people-focused group such as the church:

— Make a commitment to focus on the needs and hurts of people. This commitment to service is the manner in which Jesus lived out his life. The Lord of the church focused on hurting people and their needs, and multitudes flocked to him.

— Adopt an all-out recovery strategy. Our Lord went to the lost house of Israel that had rejected the empty religion of that day and restored the sheep to the fold of the Shepherd. The drop-outs, those put-off, the angry, and the disenfranchised all responded to one who was more concerned about caring for them than about traditions of previous generations and the burdens of supposed religious correctness.

— Strive for continual improvement. The "top down" approach of the traditional church must be replaced with a "bottoms-up" approach that places "disciplined ones" in the streets and roads compelling the lost, broken, hurting, and alienated to be a part of the

family. As individual believers go out — not expecting the work and witness to be the responsibility of the staff — they will hear the cries of the hurting and angry and realize the need for continual improvement.

— Listen. The church cannot afford to discount the attitudes and opinions of the people to whom its witness is directed. Implementing programs for the sake of programs has no real value to people. Policies which get in the way of reaching people will ultimately drive away people they are intended to serve. The church needs to listen to people whose needs it desires to meet.

The "customers" have spoken. They want assurance that they will be welcomed, that they will receive that which is worthy of the time expended, and that the leadership will inspire both trust and confidence. They want a concern for the tangibles such as cleanliness and appearance of the facility

and the staff.

Moreover, people want to find a place of empathy; they want to be with people who care about their needs and provide individual attention. The church which is more concerned about affirming established families in the church than reaching the hurting families of the community is a church focused not on the will of God but the want of man.

Finally, they want people who are eager and willing to reach out to them in compassion and concern.

The church can learn from business. Whether the body of believers chooses to be more concerned about people than secular enterprise is a decision for each congregation. The future of many local churches rests in the response of the body to the cries of a lost, lonely, and looking generation.

Jones is executive director, Christian Action Commission, MBC.

RTVC awards top honors to local programs at ICCM

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP) — ACTS of Greater New Orleans (TV-47) and Fredonia Hills Church TV-21 Ministry of Nacogdoches, Texas, shared American Christian Television System Affiliate of the Year honors at the recent International Conference on Communications Ministries at Arlington (Texas) Convention Center.

The Viewer's Choice award was for "In Touch," the weekly worship service of First Church,

Atlanta, featuring Charles Stanley. Musical/Dramatic Special — "In All of His Glory," produced by First Church, Madison.

Sports Special — "The MVP Spirit," produced by Anderson Productions of Jackson.

This is the eighth year for ACTS awards, the second for FamilyNet. The awards recognize affiliates, including television stations and churches, for innovative and creative methods of community outreach.

Revival Dates

Fair River, Brookhaven: July 25-30; 7 nightly; Dennis R. Jones, Meridian, evangelist; Danny Koonce, Baton Rouge, music; Greg Johnston, pastor.

Rome (Sunflower): July 25-28; Sunday, 6 p.m.; 7 nightly; Gary Adams, Charleston, evangelist; Joey Lott, music; Terry Tribble, pastor.

McCool, McCool: July 18-23; 7 p.m.; covered dish lunch after 11 a.m. service on Sunday; Barry Corbett, Kosciusko, evangelist; Johnny Doude, McCool, music.

Calvary, Bogue Chitto: July 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, & 1:30 p.m. service; 7:30 nightly; Robert Perry, Brookhaven, evangelist; Kenneth White, Foxworth, music; G.W. Smith, pastor.

Rock Hill, Mt. Olive: July 19-22; services, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.; John Watts, Parker, Fla., evangelist; Jimmy McCaleb, Florence, music; Zack Winningham, pastor.

First, Ridgeland: July 15-18; B. Gray Allison, president and professor, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Thurs. & Fri., noon meeting with lunch, & 7 p.m.; Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Ed Griffin, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: July 25-30; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall, noon, & 7 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Allen H. Stephens, Richland, evangelist; Richard Joiner, MC Music Department, music; Marion Spence, pastor.

Mission Hill, Wesson: July 18-23; Sunday, homecoming, Sunday School, 10 a.m., covered dish lunch following 11 a.m. worship service, 1:15 p.m. service featuring Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Smith in concert; revival, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.;

Lonnie Case, Pearlhaven, evangelist; Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Smith, music; Tommy Purvis, pastor.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: July 18-21; Joel E. Haire, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Tim Moak, Bogue Chitto, Brookhaven; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John McCall, interim pastor.

Antioch (Alcorn): July 18-23; 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, Sheldon Gooch, Jackson; Mon.-Fri., Randy Isbell, Savannah, Tenn.; Doug Farris, pastor.

Peoples, Ripley: July 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Malcolm Ellis, Colmesniel, Texas, evangelist; Tony B. Monk, pastor.

Noxapater (Winston): July 18-23; M.C. Barton, Coffeeville, evangelist; Brad Jones Family, Meridian, music; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Wayne Sanders, pastor.

Puckett (Rankin): July 18-21; John Brock, Pearl, evangelist; Bo Parker, Hattiesburg, music evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6:45 p.m.; weeknights, 7 p.m.; Barry Ward, pastor.

Springfield, Morton: July 18-23; Sunday, lunch following morning message; Sonny Adkins, evangelist; John Alumbaugh, Forest, music; Bob Sanderson, pastor.

Poplar Springs, Hazlehurst: July 18-22; John Merck, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music; James Berch, pastor.

Thorn Hill, Pelahatchie: July 18-23; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., dinner on grounds following 11 a.m. worship; Wilson Winstead, Florence, evangelist; singing, 1:30 p.m., featuring the

Duncan Sisters; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Rudy James, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Independence: July 18-21; Sunday, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Junior Hill, evangelist; Price Harris, music; Austin Moore Jr., pastor.

Providence, Jayess: July 18-23; Sunday, homecoming message, 11 a.m., dinner served following morning service, afternoon service featuring the Revelations; revival, nightly at 7 p.m.; Mike Alexander, pastor, evangelist; John Lemonis, Nashville, music; Vanessa King, Dinan Church, pianist.

Learned (Hinds-Madison): July 15-18; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Ronnie Robinson, executive director, Baptist Children's Village, preaching; Sam Mason, Maxine Nolan, and Betty Gordon, music; Sam Mason, pastor.

Kilmichael (Montgomery): July 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Joe Tuten, Bennie Hill, John L. Walker, Leon Holly, evangelists; Joe Styron, Vaiden, music; Joe Crout, pastor.

Calvary, Forest (Scott): July 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; 7:30 nightly; Johnny Parks, Kosciusko, evangelist; John Ladd, Forest, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

Ludlow, Morton: July 18-23; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner on the grounds; 7:30 nightly; Ronnie Jones, Smithdale, evangelist; Norman Huggins, Morton, music; Tommy Miles, pastor.

Hepzibah (Lawrence): July 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., dinner on the grounds, noon; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Darren Wiggington, Shivers, evangelist; Ed Haynes, Dallas, Texas, music; Jimmy T. Smith, pastor.

Parkway, Kosciusko: July 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Waggoner, Attala Co. DOM, evangelist; Boyd Tweedy, Hattiesburg, music; Joseph B. Knight, pastor.

Harmony (Benton-Tippah): July 25-30; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Bill Baker, West Ripley, evangelist; Ron Norvell, music; Bruce G. Jolly, pastor.

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Staff Changes

Parkway Church, Kosciusko, has called W. Mark Moore of Brandon as part time minister of music/education, effective April 25. The native of Newton previously served as coordinator of pastoral care at the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitefield, as chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, and on the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Robert L. (Bobby) Smith has been called to Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, as pastor, effective June 20. A native of Heuck's Retreat Community, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served for five years at New Zion Church, Monticello. He and his wife, Nina, have three children.

Revival Results

High Hill Church, Neshoba Association, had 16 decisions on June 27 as a result of the Neshoba County Crusade. The decisions included 14 by profession of faith, one by letter, and one for rededication. Bailey Smith was the evangelist for the crusade held June 20-25. Chris Aldridge is pastor of High Hill Church.

PEWS

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Brooklyn

East End Church, Columbus, has called Levon Moore of Kosciusko as interim pastor effective June 27. This is his second time to serve at East End Church.

Frank Trotter has recently become pastor of **Enterprise Church, Clarke County.** Trotter and his wife DeDe have two sons. They formerly served Fellowship Church, Mathiston, Choctaw Association.

Jackson will teach class at New Orleans Seminary

Richard Jackson, retired pastor of North Phoenix Church, will teach a one-week academic workshop Aug. 2-6 on the campus of New Orleans Seminary. No advanced registration or advanced assignments are required for this class, entitled "Stable Thinking in Ministry."

Cost for the course is \$140. For more information, contact the Extension Center Office (suite 200 in the Hardin Student Center), New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA, 70126-4858, or call 1-800-662-8701, ext. 3323.

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HELP WANTED: Financial Secretary. Bookkeeping skills required. 30-40 hours per week. Send resume to Northminster Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, Meridian, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music/Education. If interested please mail resume to: New Hope Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Box 399, Meridian, MS 39301.

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Devotional...

Victory in Jesus

By June DePriest

Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look about you for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with my righteous hand (Isaiah 41:10).

I felt as if I had been stabbed. I had never experienced such pain. To keep from screaming, I clenched my teeth and gripped my knees.

The words of the doctor to my husband exploded in my heart and left me stunned: "Joe, you have suffered two major heart attacks, and your main artery is 60% blocked. You have the heart disease of a 70-year-old man; it's inoperable."

In 1977 my 36-year-old husband received a death sentence. We faced not only the uncertainty of his illness, but the responsibility of raising a young family and coping with the pressures of daily life.

One morning during my quiet time I went to the Lord with a trembling heart. He reminded me of the song "Victory In Jesus." I claimed it for our family.

I did not tell Joe about the song and later he said, "I've been humming 'Victory In Jesus' all day." The words became our anchor.

What are you facing that needs a fresh touch from heaven to replace despair with hope, fear with courage, and unrest with peace?

When suffering is surrendered, it puts us on a path straight to the heart of God.

Prayer for today: Lord, help me today to remember to claim the victory over my circumstances.

DePriest lives in Clinton.

Rachel DuBard, missionary to Liberia, is on the field (address: Mission Baptiste, B.P. 580, San Pedro, Ivory Coast). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Carroll County and lived in Jefferson.

Danny and Libby Panter, Baptist representatives to Eastern Europe are in the States (address: 1090 Meadow Heights Dr., Jackson, MS 39206). He is a native of Pascagoula, and she is the former Libby Wallace of Jackson.

YADKIN COUNTY, N.C. — **Jean Middleton**, 74, retired Southern Baptist missionary to Chile, died June 27 of an apparent heart attack at her home in Yadkin County, N.C. Middleton, the former Jean Anthony of Yadkin County, and her late husband, Hubert, from Rutherford County,

N.C., were appointed missionaries to Chile in 1950.

MARIETTA, Ga. — **Crystal Enete**, 94, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died June 28 at the home of her son, Bill, in Marietta, Ga. The former Crystal Armstrong from Springfield, Mo., Enete had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease about a year ago. She and her husband, the late William Enete from Jonesville, La., were Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil for 34 years.

ATLANTA — **Mary Gullatt**, 73, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, died July 3 of a malignant brain tumor in Atlanta. Gullatt, the former Mary Studdard of Crawfordville, Ga., and her husband, Tom, from Palmetto, Ga., were appointed missionaries to Japan in 1950.

TYLER, Texas — **Beulah Hooper**, 63, former missionary to Kenya, died June 29 in Tyler. She had battled cancer for about two years. Hooper, the former Beulah Johnson of Richmond, Va., and her husband, Dale, from Asheville, N.C., were appointed missionaries in 1959.

Homecomings

Rock Hill, Mt. Olive: July 18; **Kenneth Miller**, Montgomery, Ala., former pastor, morning message; covered dish luncheon; 1:30 p.m. program; **Zack Winningham**, pastor.

Satartia (Yazoo): July 18; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall and afternoon singing; **Howard Smith**, director of missions, Yazoo-Warren Associations, guest speaker; **Harry Cole**, pastor.

Mt. Olivet, (Scott): July 18; worship, 11 a.m.; **Travis Polk**, pastor, speaker; dinner on the grounds, noon.

Pleasant Grove celebrates 100th

Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County, will celebrate its centennial July 18, beginning at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served, and all former pastors, members, and music ministers are invited to attend. The celebration will conclude at 3 p.m. **Randy Whitlock** is pastor.



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Campers on Mission rally draws record attendance

DALLAS (BP) — "Sharing Christ As We Go" was the theme as about 700 campers from 20 states and one Canadian province attended the annual Campers on Mission National Rally June 22-25 near Glen Rose, Texas.

More than 300 recreational vehicles filled the Tres Rios campground for the largest rally in the 22-year history of Campers on Mission.

The 17 educational seminars offered at the rally included ministry-oriented topics such as personal evangelism, puppetry, balloon sculpturing, and resort ministries as well as "nuts and bolts" conferences on RV highway safety, financial planning, and cardiac pulmonary resuscitation.

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Grace Memorial Church, Tupelo, recently licensed **Jimmy David Ellsworth** (left) and **Robert Wayne Hunt** (right), to preach. **Joe Holcomb** (center) is pastor.

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present **Jennifer Salers** in a junior voice recital, Monday, July 26, at 4 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie A. Salers of Jackson and is a member of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Salers is a student of Gerald Claxton, assistant professor of music.

The Sims Brothers of Florence will present a program of gospel music at West Shady Grove Church, Eupora, July 18 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 258-6906.

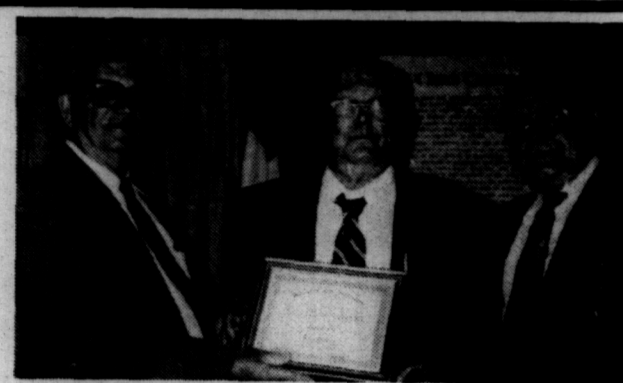
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — **David S. Dockery**, dean of Southern Seminary's School of Theology since 1992, will be elevated to the school's top ranking position in academic administration Aug. 1, according to seminary President-elect R. Albert Mohler Jr. He will become vice president for academic administration, said Mohler, who will succeed Roy L. Honeycutt as president Aug. 1. Dockery also will maintain his responsibilities as dean of the seminary's oldest school. Dockery will direct the seminary's entire academic program and oversee the work of the seminary's other three deans. Dockery's vice presidential responsibilities, Mohler said, will be similar to those duties performed by the seminary's former provost, Larry L. McSwain, who left the post recently to assume the presidency of Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

Just for the Record

Walnut Grove Church, Leake Association, exceeded its love offering goal of \$500 for the Baptist Children's Village with a final total of \$550. **John H. Pace Jr.** is pastor.

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Names in the News



At Winston Association's recent spring meeting at Dry Creek Church, a special presentation was made to **Hugh Smith**, retired pastor. Smith served as pastor of Hinze, Winston, and Oak Grove churches in the association. Pictured with Smith are **Olyn Roberts**, retired and living in Louisville, and **Paul Wilson**, pastor of First Church, Soso.



Slayden Church, Lamar, held a deacon ordination service July 13. Pictured, from left, are **Roy Ray**, **Joe Lundine**, **Bill Hardin**, pastor, **Carl Sanders**, and **David Hunsucker**.

Church growth director Hemphill at Gulfshore: "Does your church work?"

By Tim Nicholas

Ken Hemphill told a story at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly recently about overhearing a father and son discussing the son's attendance at church.

The boy said he'd rather stay home with the father, but the father insisted he go, and, besides, the father had to go when he was a boy. The boy's parting shot was "I'll go, but I'll bet it won't do me any more good than it did for you."

Hemphill, a former pastor and now Church Growth Center director for the Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board, said the conversation caused him to ask himself "What was not going on inside that church" that made a father feel it was good for a child but not for himself.

"Not relevant for his situation" was how Hemphill suggested the father felt about the church.

"Does your church work?" Hemphill asked participants at the convention board's Bible Preaching/Administration Conference. Do people come "expecting to see the hand of God?"

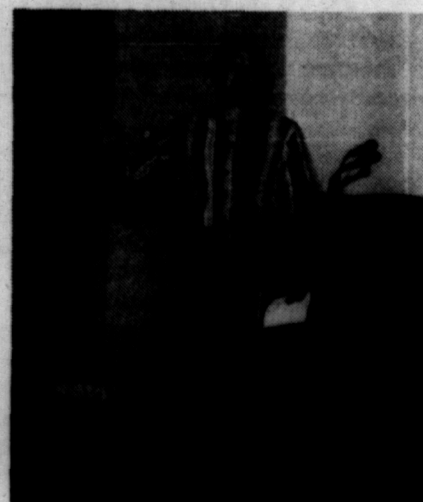
He spoke of attending practice day at the Masters in Augusta, Ga., with his daughter. "They're here," Hemphill heard people saying as a crowd excitedly gathered.

Hemphill asked another who they were running to see. "Arnie and Jack," was the reply. At 3:30 on practice day, **Arnold Palmer** and **Jack Nicklaus** teed off.

Hemphill said the church needs to develop "this sense of excitement," having people expect something will happen.

And when it comes to knowing the Lord, Hemphill said we need the church, "the zenith of God's creation."

Hemphill added, "You will never know all God wants you to know about him outside the context of the church."



Ken Hemphill at Gulfshore

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Uniform Christian living



By Michael O'Brien
Colossians 3

Paul uses these verses in Chapter 3 to make certain our calling to salvation and our calling to service.

I. Calling to salvation. The "if" in verse one is rightly translated in the NIV as "since." The verse then reads, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ...." There is no question in the believer's heart and mind about whether or not he is saved; the Holy Spirit has borne witness to that event in the heart of every saved man or woman, boy or girl. Paul is saying to these believers, "because you know that you are saved."

Look at the reaction that should accompany a true salvation experience. "Set your heart on things above" (v. 1). Paul cautions against thinking about things of this world in the second verse when he says, "not on earthly things." The point Paul makes is that you were at one time involved with the things of the world, but you have "died" to them. Paul uses the word mortify which means totally dead (v. 3). Now you are "hidden in Christ," clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Paul in verse 4 declares that when Christ appears in glory you will be with him.

II. Calling to service. Paul uses a scant four verses to explain our "calling" to salvation, and then he uses 13 verses to deal with our calling to Christian service. I suppose that Paul felt that these Colossian Christians were not having a difficult time with their salvation experience, but perhaps it was a difficult life to live. Is this a problem of today?

Paul deals with several areas of the believer's life that impact their service to the Lord, and he deals with them rather harshly. "Kill it!" Paul is saying "put it to death." Remember that Paul has already said that you have died to the things of the world. There are some terrible sins listed in what Paul describes as "the way you were." This is past tense. Christian people do not behave this way any longer.

Sexual sins are dealt with when he says, "sexual immorality and impurity." Paul uses the broader term in order to include the entire spectrum of this type of sin. Married people should not commit adultery and single people should not be involved with fornication. Paul wants believers to keep themselves pure. Every bride and every bridegroom wants, and has the right to expect, that her or his mate come into the marriage union "pure." We are the bride of Christ, and he expects no less.

Jesus turned the tables upside down in some thought patterns when he delivered the Sermon on the Mount. He said you could commit adultery "in your heart." He said this was also possible with murder. Paul was probably thinking of the things Jesus mentioned when he listed these sins: lust, evil desires, greed (which is idolatry), anger, rage, and malice. These are sins of the mind and the heart; ones that are not seen by others. Christians must be careful to avoid the sins which others do not see. Jesus knows us on the inside where the world cannot see.

Paul next turns to the positive; the way a true believer should behave himself. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly beloved, clothe yourself..." (v. 12). Paul presents the list of attributes that are consistent with Christian living and service: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Do these things describe what you are on the inside? Do you possess Christ-like love and a sweet spirit of humility? If so, then verse 13 will be an accurate description of your actions. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another."

Finally, Paul expresses his hope for every Christian, which is peace (v. 15). When a believer is at peace with himself, which can only happen through Christ (John 14:27), he will have the greatest spiritual victory a person can know. He may not be rich, or important, or famous, but he will have the victory. Read for yourself the remaining verses in our text (16, 17). If every true believer would make spiritual application of these verses to himself, the New Testament church of today would be revolutionized.

Two things are abundantly clear in today's text. Paul wants us to know that we are saved; and if you know that you are saved, behave like you are saved.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book A non-Christian world



By Jewel P. Merritt
1 Peter 2:11-19; 3:1-2, 7-9

When tragedy strikes Christians, we should strive to bring into and out of every situation a royal dignity worthy of a child of the King. In every experience our lives are a testimony to non-Christians around us.

Right conduct among non-Christians (2:11-12). Persecution had begun for the early church. The situation would get worse. It was important for Christians to know how to act in the coming trials. Peter reminded his readers that they were strangers, aliens in this world. By living godly lives among non-believers, Christians would be able to give positive witness to those who watched their actions day by day.

Submission to civil authorities (2:13-17). Paul wrote to the church at Corinth that "God is not a God of disorder..." (1 Cor. 14: 33). In a sense, obeying human government is obeying God who ordained the same. Ideally, government punishes wrong-doers and commends those who do right. Then we have this amazing verse 17. Peter said to respect everyone. Historians tell us there were 60,000,000 slaves in the Roman Empire. Slaves were not considered people, merely things. Yet Peter said all deserved respect. Then Peter said that we should love our fellow believers. Since we are all made in the image of God, everyone is worthy of respect. Our feeling for our fellow believers should go beyond respect. We are to love each other. Peters added, "Reverence God." We cannot respect our fellowman or love our fellow church members until we reverence the Lord. Lastly, Peter said to honor the king. If Peter could write this about Nero, how much more should we honor the president. Whether or not we voted for him, as Christians we are to honor and pray for him.

Submission of servants to masters (2:18-19). Can you imagine what Christianity did for the slaves of Rome? After being considered as property with no rights at all, they found that in God's sight they were precious. Slaves and masters were members of the same congregation. How should the slaves act? Peter reminded them to be submissive and respectful not only to the good masters but also to those who were harsh. There is a message here for Christian employees. The best workers, the most loyal employees should be the Christians.

Submission of wives to their non-Christian husbands (3:1-2). In ancient days wives were considered as property also. What if a wife became a Christian? How should she act in a non-Christian home? Peter said she should submit to her non-believing husband so that her lovely life may be a witness to him. By such behavior, not by arguing or nagging, her husband may come to know the Lord also.

Esteem of husbands for their wives (3:7). "In the same way" as believers submit to those governing, as slaves submit to masters, and wives to husbands, so husbands are to be considerate and respectful of their wives. Since all people receive God's saving grace equally, we should respect and honor each other. One's prayer life can suffer if we are not obedient in this.

Loving concern for fellow Christians (3:8-9). Peter sums up the way Christians are to relate to each other. "Live in harmony" does not mean that we have to agree on everything. Surely, as children of the same heavenly Father, we can live in harmony with each other. Be sympathetic — for the Christian, sympathy should be an action word. Love as brothers — it should be enough for us that the Lord commanded us to love each other (John 13:34-35). Be humble — serve each other as the need arises. Bless each other in order to receive a blessing. What a witness to an unbelieving world we could be if we followed Peter's instructions!

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work Everybody is somebody



By Mark A. Rathel
James 2:1-13

Inscribed upon the Statue of Liberty as an invitation to the world are the words of the poet Emma Lazarus: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me."

Would such people be invited and welcome to your church? Think carefully about this catalogue before you answer: the tired, the poor, the wretched, the refuse, the homeless.

Some biblical passages painfully condemn areas of our lives we deem inconsequential in our spiritual health. James 2:1-13 is one of those painful passages. As believers we must allow God's inspired Word to stand in judgment over our lives, rather than placing ourselves as an authority above God's Word. Honesty and integrity before the Lord require us to acknowledge that due to our sinful partiality some people are not welcome in church.

Everybody is somebody (v. 1). I recently received a newsletter from a church that adopted the motto, "The Place Where Everybody is Somebody." The churches James addressed, unfortunately, could not adopt honestly such a motto. These believers practiced partiality and favoritism, an attitude incompatible with faith in the glorious Lord.

The New Testament authors invented the word translated into our English versions as partiality or favoritism. Partiality literally means "to receive face." Partiality is a sin because to favorably receive the face of one person means to reject the face of another. Partiality occurs whenever believers categorize people on the basis of external evaluations such as education, social status, physical appearance, economic condition, or race. A repeated refrain throughout the New Testament is that neither Jesus nor God is guilty of showing favoritism (Lk. 20:21; Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9).

One example of partiality (vv. 2-4). As a wise pastor James used an illustration to powerfully communicate the truth. The power of the illustration derives from its true-to-life nature. In an age when the middle-class was non-existent, James employed the classifications of rich and poor church visitors. He could have utilized any number of examples of artificial distinctions between believers.

James emphasized the outward apparel of the rich visitor; indeed, the description is one of a public official. The poor visitor, on the other hand, is dressed in dirty clothes. The poor believer is literally a beggar. Church members offered the public official the best seat, but offered the beggar the floor.

The answer to the question asked in verse four is yes, this church discriminated and is guilty of being a group of evil judges. The scriptural question to our churches is: To whom have we discriminated?

The absurdity of partiality (vv. 5-7). The partiality the church showed to the rich is absurd in light of God's attitude and the treatment of the poor at the hands of the rich. God loves the poor and wants to make them spiritually rich. The rich, on the other hand, exploit the poor. By showing favoritism to the rich, the church actually honored those who blasphemed the name of Jesus.

The supreme law of love (vv. 8-11). Church members might have agreed that partiality is wrong, but they may have thought that it was no big sin. Rather than being a harmless sin, partiality marked out church members as spiritual rebels guilty of breaking the royal, or supreme, law of God. The royal law is the law of love as revealed in Leviticus 19:18.

God judges partiality (vv. 12-13). Believers are to speak and act in their relationships to others as people God will judge. The standard of judgment is the law that gives freedom, another name for the law of love.

Since God will judge us for showing favoritism, ask yourself, "To whom have I shown partiality? Whom have I neglected?"

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

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FBC Greenville's Chinese Mission defeats obstacles to baptize 82-year-old

By Ted Shepherd

The last Sunday in May, Mary Chow came up to me after the service at the Chinese Mission of First Church, Greenville, and said, "Mrs. Sun Choi Chow wants to be baptized." Mary explained that during a visit with Mrs. Chow, she, her husband, and three other friends shared the gospel with her and now Mrs. Chow wants to be baptized!

Well, that was music to my ears! I have known Sun Choi Chow for 16 years and have visited her many times in the family store on North Broadway in Greenville. She does not speak English and is from the old country — old China, near Canton, my Chinese friends say. She has been in this country 20 years or more and is typical of the old Chinese grandmothers who live in the back of the family grocery here in the Mississippi Delta. At 82, Sun Choi Chow now lives in a Greenville nursing home. She has had medical difficulties for some time. She is a dialysis patient and recently fell and broke her pelvis.

At Mary's news, I asked Ed Pang, superintendent of our Chinese Mission, and his wife Mary, teacher of the mission's Cantonese class, to go with me to the nursing home the next week and interpret for me.

Mrs. Chow was glad to see us. We explained our visit and she was delighted to talk with us. To be on the safe side, I had decided to start from scratch and go through the plan of salvation again. So, with Ed and Mary speaking in Cantonese, we shared the good news of Jesus Christ. All of her answers were affirmative, and she readily prayed the sinner's prayer in Cantonese as we led her. It was a joyous moment for all of us. Her eyes were sparkling.

Now, we were faced with the problem of baptism. Mrs. Chow was flat of her back in a nursing home bed. What would we do? We talked it over and decided to see if the nursing home had anything resembling a baptismal pool. In the director of nursing's office, I talked to Sylvia Brown who was

most cooperative. She said a whirlpool bath was available and offered to supply all the help we needed. We selected June 8 for the date of the baptism.

During services at the mission on June 6, we explained to the congregation about the happy situation. The congregation voted to receive Mrs. Chow and to hold her baptism at the nursing home on June 8.

Eight of us arrived that day at 10 a.m. sharp to prepare for the 2 p.m. baptismal service. I know we looked like some delegation from China. I carried my Bible and a white clergy baptismal robe thrown over my arm. Mrs. Pang had a white robe for Mrs. Chow, and another lady carried a cake for the celebration after the ceremony. (Chinese always have a party after any significant event!)

The help that was promised arrived at Mrs. Chow's room at 2 p.m. The nursing assistants changed her into the baptismal robe and then made arrangements to have the whirlpool bath filled. They also placed her in a wheelchair for the move to the room where the whirlpool bath was located. Before leaving the room, photographs were made of Mrs. Chow and her friends. (Chinese always take pictures.) Again we must have presented quite a picture as we followed Mrs. Chow down the hall.

Mrs. Chow was placed in the whirlpool bath before we entered the room. She was seated in a lift chair within the bath. It was very cramped and no way for her to go backwards. So I explained to her that I would baptize her by bending her forward and under the water.

After further instructions through my interpreters, we proceeded. I explained baptism, read a Bible passage, and baptized Mrs. Chow. Afterward, we moved to the dining hall for refreshments.

It was a happy occasion, and there was great rejoicing!

Shepherd is pastor of the FBC, Greenville, Chinese Mission.



Twenty-four Raymond Church members who volunteered to conduct a mission project in Valdez, Alaska, were, left to right: front row, Charles Robinson, Martha Robinson, Chomella Beissel, Margaret Sheffield, Joyce Hopkins, Angela Holston, Kathy Dugas, Rose Wilson, Steve Wilson, Sandra Jarrett; second row, Dick Robertson, Dale Rice, G.F. Beissel, Tommy Jarrett, pastor, Rick Spitchley, Tammie Spitchley, Caleb Dugas, Louis Dugas, Tim Gordon; third row, Mac L. Baker, Brotherhood director and trip coordinator,

Charles Sheffield, Wayne Jordan, Jack Oyler, and Rocky Holston. The team was in Alaska June 12-20, completing an education building extension, as well as painting the exterior of First Baptist Church, Valdez. The building of a new sanctuary entrance way was almost completed, and will be followed up by two other Mississippi volunteer mission teams. Alaska and Mississippi currently participate in a partnership mission program. Gene Maderis is pastor, First Church, Valdez.

Ethics & Religion

Making marriages last

By Michael J. McManus

Third in a 7-part series

If you have ever been married, says the Gallup Poll, "the odds are now 50-50 that you've either been divorced, separated, or seriously close to separation." For those aged 35-54, the odds increase to two out of three.

Women are more apt to be unhappy in marriage, and initiate most divorces. Yet it is women who are the nurturers. That's why they are reading bridal magazines — 1,150,000 copies a month, according to the New York Times.

But too much time and money is spent on weddings. What's needed is to increase time planning ways to strengthen the relationship itself. Sadly, couples can't count on the church, where three-quarters of them will marry, to provide solid biblical and practical preparation for marriage. Gallup found that only a sixth of American marriages were preceded by premarital preparation classes. And the preparation fails to cut the divorce rate.

I urge couples to "shop around" for the most rigorous premarital preparation in their communities. It will probably not be where they plan to marry. More likely, the best preparation will be in the largest and fastest growing Protestant churches, or in Catholic churches.

Almost alone, Catholics seem to realize that the number one reason most marriages break up is poor communication. Gallup interviewed divorced people to find physical abuse broke only 5% of marriages; substance abuse, 16%; infidelity, 17%. But "incompatibility" (poor communication or con-

flict resolution) sparked three-fifths of divorces.

Therefore Catholics aim to improve couple communication five ways:

1. A premarital inventory is given to help identify each couple's strengths and weaknesses — an objective view of the relationship. "A lot of time is spent going over the inventory, several hours" with witnessing priest or deacon, says Joe DiMauro, Camden's Family Life director.

2. He adds, "There are ten hours of instruction, which can be over three weekends but the best form is a weekend retreat, Engaged Encounter."

Nearly 30,000 couples attended Engaged Encounter last year, 1,200 in Seattle alone. It is an intensive experience. Married couples share intimate details of their lives with 20-25 couples. Each couple then meets privately, writing answers to tough questions and talking about them.

Engaged Encounter is run by lay people. There are Methodist, Lutheran, and Episcopalian versions, and Protestants are welcome at any Catholic EE. (For local scheduling, call (412) 487-5116).

3. Writing and dialogue is also central to the less rigorous Pre Cana Weekends. The workshops do require work, with take home exercises and workbooks.

4. Older, solidly married couples pass on the wisdom of their experience. In Hartford, a married couple meets with four engaged couples to encourage them to talk about their answers to questions posed by the workbooks, to role play,

have case studies, and table discussions.

5. A hunk of time is also required, typically six months. Says DiMauro: "In our diocese, it is known from the youngest age that before a couple enters the sacrament of marriage, there is preparation time. The theme is that a wedding is a day. A marriage is a lifetime. We constantly stress... that it takes time to prepare for anything — especially something as crucial as marriage."

McManus has written "Ethics & Religion" since 1981, a syndicated column in 100 newspapers. This series of columns is based on research for his new book, "Marriage Savers."

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Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First John One: Five.

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